

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In reference to this question of making announcements prior to seeding, one of the major factors, as the minister must know, is the question of price. Would the minister indicate to the house whether he knows the significance of the fact that barley, which is in short supply, has dropped six cents a bushel in price since the election, while American corn, the competitive feed, has gone up four cents a bushel?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NATO—REQUEST FOR REPORT
ON CURRENT CONFERENCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of newspaper reports that the government has made certain commitments at the NATO conference with regard to Canada's contribution to NATO operations, prior information having been denied to the House of Commons, will the Prime Minister see to it that an early and full report is given to the House of Commons and an opportunity provided for the fullest discussion?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no new commitments have been undertaken as a result of this council meeting in regard to the use of Canadian forces with NATO. The Secretary of State for External Affairs will be reporting to the house on this matter on Monday, when the council meeting is over. Meanwhile I should like to make it quite clear that the role of Canadian forces in NATO is not under consideration at this council meeting. That role will be the role which was undertaken for Canada by the previous government, and which has not been changed as a result of this meeting.

(Translation):

**APPOINTMENT OF CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE
TO VATICAN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Prime Minister. Does the Prime Minister intend to appoint soon a Canadian representative to the Vatican, as have done almost all nations of the world, including England?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): This is, of course, a matter of government policy. It is being considered, as no doubt it

was being considered during the last six years by the previous government.

TRANSPORT**SMALL WATER CRAFT—MEASURES TO REDUCE
DANGERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the Ontario provincial police are adding officers to reduce the danger of fatalities caused by power boats, and in view of the fact that the inspector in charge has stated that the chief offenders in the resort areas are under the age of 16, is the minister planning any action to assist by prohibiting the operation of such boats by individuals up to this age limit, thereby lessening the danger of deaths from this cause in our resort areas? I realize that the minister may not be aware of the thinking of his department because I gave him notice of this question very late and, if he so desires, I shall wait until tomorrow for an answer.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I understand and appreciate the hon. member's reference to being satisfied to wait until tomorrow for an answer. I take it he has in mind the danger arising out of the control of small boats commonly referred to as outboard motor boats, and that he has reference to a news item in the morning papers to the effect that the Ontario provincial police are purchasing a small power boat of another type to be used in Ontario resort areas, mainly the Muskoka lakes region and the Algonquin park area.

I can tell the hon. member that the whole subject of the control and regulation of small power boats has been receiving active consideration, and that I hope before very long to come before the house with some statements on the subject that I hope will meet with his approval. It is a subject of very great concern to the department. The difficulty arises because of the fact that the provincial authorities have more immediate control over many of the small lakes and rivers—and some not so small—in which these boats operate, and it is very difficult for the federal authority to have a thorough inspection system.

Mr. Winkler: Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the minister for that answer. I did not want to miss this opportunity to have him make some further decision in these great days.