

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister stated in an interview with the press before he left to attend the Commonwealth Conference that new, permanent legislation would be introduced to take the place of the Public Order (Temporary Measures) Act, has the Minister of Justice been directed to draw up that permanent legislation?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister did not say that and, if you will permit me, I will read what he did say.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—ACCEPTANCE BY RUSSIA OF REMAINING QUANTITY UNDER SALE CONTRACT—FLOUR SHIPMENTS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a question for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Has he had any indication from the Soviet Union that they will be picking up the remainder of the wheat they contracted for under the agreements?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): There have been some further contacts, particularly in connection with a certain desire on the part of the Soviet Union to take some flour at this time, and negotiations in that regard are going on.

Mr. Korchinski: Are the negotiations under which the Soviet Union will be picking up some flour part of the agreement to pick up 53 million bushels of wheat?

Mr. Lang: They are properly said to be a part of the over-all long term agreement with the Soviet Union and also of the renewal of the agreement which took place a year ago.

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): I have a supplementary question for the minister. Will he ensure that when negotiations are under way for the purchase of flour eastern Canada mills will be given the same consideration in regard to tendering in order that eastern wheat which meets the qualifications may be considered in such export trade?

Mr. Lang: It is very much a matter of the mills in competition for this business to arrange for its disposition. I should think that will make it possible for the mills to provide the kind of flour which is required, which I understand would ordinarily be made up of northern wheat rather than soft wheat.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF URANIUM SOLD TO PAKISTAN AND INDIA

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. [Mr. Sharp.]

Was there any difference between the restrictions placed on the use of uranium sold by Canada to Pakistan and the restrictions placed on the use of uranium sold to India, all of which has caused, as the minister knows, considerable controversy in Pakistan?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there are some technical differences. The arrangement with India was under a provision for bilateral inspection between India and Canada, and the arrangement that was made with Pakistan provided for inspection under the International Atomic Energy Authority. This has been the cause of some difference of view between Canada and Pakistan and Canada and India.

Mr. Hees: Is Pakistan now completely satisfied with the explanation the government has given or is there still cause for concern regarding bad relations between our two countries?

Mr. Sharp: I think the relations between Pakistan and Canada are excellent at the moment, as is confirmed by the warm reception that our Prime Minister received in Pakistan.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: But there are some difficulties, I am ready to admit, arising out of the difference in the arrangements that were made between Canada and these two countries, partly for historical reasons.

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FINANCE

MERCANTILE BANK—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEW ARRANGEMENT RESPECTING CANADIAN OWNERSHIP AND INCREASE IN CAPITALIZATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance, but in his absence I would like to direct it to the Acting Prime Minister who may know something about this subject since he had to deal with it when he was Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Acting Prime Minister a question arising out of the announcement by the Minister of Finance of a new arrangement with the Mercantile Bank extending the number of years by which time 75 per cent of its capital is to be Canadian owned, and increasing fourfold the amount of its capitalization. Would the Acting Prime Minister undertake that either he or the Minister of Finance would make a statement to the House as soon as possible giving the details of this new arrangement and the reasons which led to it?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to table now a copy of the statement made by the Minister of Finance on January 7, and perhaps on the basis of that there might be further questions from the hon. gentleman later.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.