

*Inquiries of the Ministry***MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

TELEVISION LICENCE, HAMILTON

Mr. Fulton:

For a copy of a letter or letters sent by the Department of Transport on or about February 16, 1953, to the broadcasting consultants on its approved list, outlining the conditions or limitations to be met in connection with any application for a licence for a television station in the Hamilton area.

Mr. Chevrier: Tabled herewith.

REPORTS BY AUDITOR GENERAL

Mr. Fulton:

For a return showing all observations or references to actions considered irregular in the administration of public funds noted by the Auditor General and/or those acting on his behalf in the execution of the responsibility of the Auditor General to this house since March 1, 1950, and not included in the Auditor General's reports to parliament in that period, covering all branches of: (a) the Department of National Defence; (b) Defence Production Limited; (c) Crown Assets Disposal Corporation.

He said: The Minister of Finance was kind enough to show me a memorandum in connection with this motion which he had received from the Auditor General. I have since spoken to the Auditor General, and to get the information I have in mind it would be necessary to reword the motion, so I am asking that it be dropped.

Mr. Speaker: Motion dropped.

WHEATINTERNATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE—INQUIRY
AS TO AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Lake Centre): Is the Minister of Trade and Commerce in a position to make some report on the progress of the international wheat conference and the likelihood of an agreement being arrived at?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the situation is unchanged in that negotiations are proceeding, but I will now answer one question asked earlier by the hon. member and report that I am optimistic about the prospect for a contract being arrived at eventually.

FISHERIESNEWFOUNDLAND—INTERFERENCE BY FOREIGN
TRAWLERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. F. Higgins (St. John's East): Is the parliamentary assistant prepared to comment on the statement in the *St. John's Daily News*, relative to interference with Newfoundland fishermen by foreign trawlers?

[Mr. Pearkes.]

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for St. John's East was good enough to give me advance notice of his intention to ask this question. The department has been keeping close watch on the operations of foreign trawlers and draggers on the southwest coast of Newfoundland. Several French, Portuguese, Spanish and one German fishing vessel have been reported in the area, but from on-the-spot observations there is no evidence that they have operated inside Canadian territorial waters. Over a month ago the department arranged with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to patrol the area with the motor vessel *MacBrien*. At that time no foreign trawlers or draggers were sighted. Since then the department has kept the area under observation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police patrol vessel has been instructed to again cruise the area. The department's own vessel, the motor vessel *Arctica*, has been dispatched to the southwest coast and within the next week or ten days, following her annual overhaul and refit, the department's large protection vessel, the motor vessel *Cygnus*, will be assigned to patrol the southwest section of the Newfoundland coast.

FERRY SERVICEWOOD ISLAND-CARIBOU—AUTHORIZATION
FOR THIRD BOAT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Yesterday the hon. member for Queens asked the following question:

Has the government or the Minister of Transport refused permission to the Northumberland Ferries Limited to operate a third boat on the Wood Island-Caribou route in order to provide an interim service pending replacement by a new boat which is to be constructed by the federal government? If this statement is correct, as reported in the press, we should know why permission was not granted.

The answer to the question is, no, neither the minister nor the government refused permission for the operation of a third boat. As the hon. member knows, these matters are under the jurisdiction of the Canadian maritime commission, and the Canadian maritime commission has suggested to Northumberland Ferries Limited that, pending the construction of the boat, they operate a third ship on a two-year contract basis. Thus far the company has not indicated its intention of accepting that suggestion.

Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens): I should like to ask a question arising out of the answer just given. It would still be open to Northumberland Ferries to negotiate with the government, because in the matter