

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Mr. Speaker, I had difficulty in seeing that you were on your feet—

Mr. Hees: Because you always look the other way.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): May I ask the minister a supplementary question. Has the position of the government with regard to the cessation of tests changed in any way since that policy was announced by the minister a few weeks ago?

Mr. Green: In reply to the supplementary speeches by the hon. member for Essex East, may I say that the policy of the government has not changed. We have a great deal of trouble trying to convince him it has not changed, but that is the fact.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the minister whether the Canadian views with regard to the recent Russian proposal on nuclear tests have been made known to the governments of the United Kingdom or the United States?

Mr. Green: Mr. Speaker, the views of the Canadian government on this question seem to be much more thoroughly understood by the United Kingdom and the United States than by hon. members of the opposition.

DOUGLAS POINT, ONT.—TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. E. Robinson (Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has there been any change in the target date for completion of the nuclear power plant at Douglas Point, Bruce county?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker, there has been no change.

SHIPPING

NORTH ATLANTIC—INQUIRY AS TO AGREEMENT ON WEATHER SHIPS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport and ask if the minister can inform the house whether a new agreement has been reached at the international conference held at The Hague on the weather ships in the north Atlantic. Will Canada have the same number of ships to operate on the north Atlantic, and will the financial burden be more equitably distributed among the countries involved because of the tentative agreement?

[Mr. Speaker.]

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his intention to ask this question. A conference of representatives of the various nations which support the north Atlantic weather station program has been under way at The Hague for some days and is expected to conclude this week.

It is not expected that this will lead to any change in the number of ocean weather stations and weather ships now provided, but it may lead to some change in the financial distribution of costs among participating states. The final results of the conference are not yet available since the conference itself has not, I believe, yet been concluded.

TRADE

WHEAT—CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. ON DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. K. H. More (Regina City): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the statement appearing in the *Globe and Mail* of March 28 suggesting fear of controversy between Canada and the United States of America over surplus wheat disposal, can the minister say whether plans have been made to hold talks between the United States of America and Canada to develop a variable system of multilateral world trade and urge a more determined policy regarding the disposal of surplus wheat?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, Canada and the United States have developed consultative machinery so that views and grievances may be discussed at the ministerial and the official levels. One practical result has been the discontinuance of United States barter deals for wheat in many commercial markets. Approximately six months ago the United States announced that the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland have been deleted from their barter list for wheat, flour and feed grains. Although the United States barter program remains a potential threat to Canadian commercial exports, its actual impact on such exports has been considerably reduced in recent years. We are keeping a close watch on developments.

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF EXPORTS CREDIT INSURANCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hubert Badanai (Fort William): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade