

Inquiries of the Ministry

and state whether Canada will be able to sell butter on the British market in 1963, in view of the circumstances which prevail over there?

(Text):

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the subject mentioned by the hon. member is under study. Due to the price of butter at the moment we question whether this will be possible; nevertheless we are studying it, and if it is possible we will see to it that our markets are enlarged.

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS
WITH RED CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Will the minister be in a position to inform the house before the recess how trade negotiations are proceeding in connection with the sale of wheat to China?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to inform hon. members that I have just received news that the negotiations have been concluded successfully. The wheat board will be making a statement this afternoon, and I hope I shall have the opportunity later of giving the substance of the wheat board's statement to hon. members.

(Translation):

ARTS, LETTERS AND SCIENCES

ROYAL COMMISSION—SUGGESTED INCREASE IN
MEMBERSHIP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the numerous requests which he has received from certain groups about the royal commission on biculturalism, does the Prime Minister intend to increase the commission's membership, in order to comply with those groups' requests?

(Text):

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the only consideration in that regard is being given to a suggestion that there might be an additional member from British Columbia, but no decision has been taken yet. That would be the only increase which would be made, if one were made.

TRADE AND COMMERCE

ADDITIONAL SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY
ADVERTISING AGENCY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce a question, one which I would have placed on the order paper but I was informed that it would be better put on orders of the day. The question is in relation to the advertising contract which the McLaren's advertising agency holds with the Department of Trade and Commerce. I want to ask the minister whether there is any agreement, verbal or written, that McLaren's advertising agency will provide other services than those which are going to the government, say to the Liberal party, as a result of this contract.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to say that I think this question is out of order on several grounds. First, it should relate to public affairs and the hon. member is asking a question relating, if you wish, to private party matters. Second, he is making an allegation, or a statement, or an assertion. Therefore I would suggest that if he wishes to ask this question he submit it to me in writing so that it can be carefully considered to see whether or not it is in order.

Mr. Fisher: The question as I understood it, Mr. Speaker, was referred to you, but I should just like to say this. You said that this question concerned a private affair. If there is any understanding regarding a public contract which carries over into the private field, if political party management is a private field, then I would say that this is very much a question for the public and for this house. However, I will accept your suggestion.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, could I be permitted to answer this question. If the question is in order—and I am not suggesting it is—the answer is no.

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR INCREASED ADVANCE PAYMENTS
ON FARM STORED GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Due to the serious grain congestion problem which is developing in western Canada, would the minister consider the advisability of amending the cash advances legislation to provide for an increase in the maximum amount available to individual farmers as advances on their grain in store on farms?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the possible amendment of this act is under consideration.