

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

season so that their children may begin their school terms in the new localities after the Christmas vacation.

**MERCHANT SHIPPING****REPORTED AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED KINGDOM AND CANADA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra):** I have a question to ask the Minister of Transport. Perhaps in his absence one of the other ministers would deal with it. A press dispatch today indicates that an agreement is being negotiated with respect to merchant shipping between the United Kingdom and Canada. May we have a statement in that regard?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I know nothing of such an agreement. I shall make inquiries, and if there is any information I shall be glad to give it to the house.

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT****FLOUR MILLING INDUSTRY—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart):** May I ask the Secretary of State if he will see that the omission from sessional paper No. 53-I, tabled by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) yesterday, is rectified, and that the document entitled "Memorandum of talk with chairman" on June 21, 1943, is included, so that the sessional paper may be complete and intelligible?

**Hon. F. G. Bradley (Secretary of State):** I shall inquire into the matter.

**Mr. Coldwell:** May I ask a question of the Minister of Justice? Yesterday he tabled a return to a motion for the production of papers moved on November 14. There was another motion, moved on the same day, asking for letters, memoranda and communications from Mr. Donald Gordon or any member of the staff of the wartime prices and trade board to the flour milling industry or any flour milling company authorizing the making or maintenance of price agreements between December 1, 1941 and September 15, 1947, or subsequently. Do I understand there are no communications, and that nothing further is to be tabled?

**Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will understand that, up to date, in examining the voluminous files we have not turned up any such written communications from either Mr. Taylor or Mr. Gordon. However, there is still

[Mr. Gibson (Hamilton West).]

a very great deal of examining to be done. I was going to speak to my hon. friend about this and suggest to him—I believe he has already agreed in another instance—to remove any reference to other officials of the board—

**Mr. Coldwell:** Yes.

**Mr. Garson:**—which would cause a very extensive inquiry.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I understood that that was in connection with the other return.

**Mr. Garson:** No; I think it was in connection with both.

**Mr. Coldwell:** I am satisfied.

**Mr. Garson:** That is the reason why we could not bring down the return before. In order to be able to say that the information had been given, we would have to go through all the files. As a matter of fact I had hoped to have an opportunity to speak to the hon. gentleman about this, but I did not have time yesterday to do so.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO PHOTOGRAPH TO BE TAKEN BY NATIONAL FILM BOARD**

**Mr. Speaker:** May I make a brief announcement? I have been requested by the national film board and the Canadian Press to allow them to take a photograph of the house while it is in session. At previous parliaments pictures have been taken, at a time when many of the members sitting on committees or attending to other business have been out of the chamber. I am suggesting to the film board and the Canadian Press that the picture be taken next Wednesday morning at eleven o'clock.

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT****AMENDMENTS RESPECTING INSTITUTION AND CONDUCT OF PROSECUTIONS, ETC.**

The house resumed, from Tuesday, November 22, consideration of the motion of Mr. Garson for the second reading of Bill No. 144, to amend the Combines Investigation Act.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) continues his remarks I should like to draw the attention of the house to a ruling which I made earlier in this debate on a question that was raised as to whether the whole of the McGregor report was debatable. On that occasion I ruled that the whole report was not debatable, but only those portions which were relevant to this bill. I ruled also that it was permissible only to debate the principle of the amending bill which is before the house,