

Inquiries of the Ministry

joint concurrence of the federal-provincial partners before any change is made.

It is intended that the above steps will ensure that the higher pensions, when they become effective, will not be automatically dissipated in higher rentals in any accommodation built under the provisions of the National Housing Act.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I wonder whether the minister will ensure the return of the Stanfield government by arranging to participate in the Nova Scotia provincial election?

Mr. Fred F. Stenson (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, my question could be supplementary to that asked regarding the Canada pension bill. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is his intention to replace the Minister of National Health and Welfare after his statement of last night that the government needs the support of the Ontario government to bring forward a strong pension act.

AGRICULTURE

SUPPLIES OF FEED GRAIN FOR EASTERN FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

Can the minister tell the house if the plentiful harvest in the western provinces will enable eastern farmers to buy their wheat at the same price as the Russians?

[*Text*]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the translation was faulty, but I do not know whether the hon. gentleman referred to wheat or corn. Did he mean corn in the generic sense or did he mean corn like maize?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I shall repeat my question. I asked the minister if, in view of the fact that the wheat crop in western Canada this year is abundant, the eastern farmers would be able to buy their wheat at the same price as the Russians?

[*Text*]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I cannot, of course, give any assurance about the price of wheat. This is completely within the control of the Canadian wheat board. I can tell my hon.

[Mr. Garland.]

friend, however, that very special efforts are being made to assure that the needs of eastern farmers, as far as supply is concerned, will be adequately protected.

TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINES—SUGGESTED
POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Transport but in his absence perhaps the Prime Minister would take it. Considering the valuable contribution that the branch railway lines are making in facilitating the delivery of grain as a result of the recent large sales, would the government give consideration to delaying any additional railway line abandonments until such time as a further study can be made in the light of this new development?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to discuss this matter with the Minister of Transport. I know how important it is.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

INQUIRY AS TO REASONS FOR INCREASED RATES

[*Translation*]

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General.

I should like the minister to give us the reason for the substantial increase in the rate of money orders and other instruments or services provided by his department, which causes much confusion.

Hon. Azellus Denis (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the increases have become necessary for various reasons and particularly because of the deficits accumulated under the previous administration; second, in order to set up the normal additional mail delivery services which were put off by the previous administration.

Mr. Martineau: Could the hon. minister tell us—

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure hon. members will have taken note of the fact it is now nearly 4.20 p.m. This is the opening day of the resumed session. There is some very pressing and important legislation to come before the house. While it is not my desire to stop the question period, some hon. members have asked two or three questions and I am wondering whether we could not limit