

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Michener:** I appreciate what the Prime Minister says, and my question was whether there were any formalities still to be authorized by the government. I appreciate the process that must be followed, but has the government done all it has to do in order to authorize the transaction?

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I imagine that the controller of the treasury will make sure that the proper documents have been signed and are in order before he will agree to the insurance policy being issued.

**Mr. Michener:** That is, the documents in accordance with authorizations already given?

[Later:]

WHEAT—EFFECT ON WHEAT BOARD  
OF SALE TO POLAND

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. A. Charlton (Brant-Haldimand):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement made by the Prime Minister this morning that a private corporation has negotiated a sale of wheat to an outside country, may I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce if the authority of the wheat board has been altered in any way.

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I would love to be able to explain the marketing of western wheat to my hon. friend. It has been tried in the agriculture committee from time to time but he will never understand it. Why go into that particular subject on a hot day in the summer?

**Mr. Drew:** That is a fine example of respect for parliament.

**Mr. Charlton:** In view of the minister's reply, I would like to ask a supplementary question. Are we wrong in our assumption that the Canadian wheat board have authority to sell all Canadian wheat?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** Mr. Speaker, they sell all Canadian wheat; but who resells it afterwards is a matter that is handled by the trade. The wheat board sell wheat to whoever bids the price they want, and is prepared to pay cash for it. I am not familiar with the details of the transaction that took place yesterday, when a broker bought for Polish account, and paid cash for 50,000 tons of wheat. I do not know whether he bought it from the wheat board or bought it from another trader. And I do not think it matters very much to my hon. friend.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

## FLOODS

SASKATCHEWAN—INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE  
RESPECTING PROPERTY DAMAGE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government come to an urgently needed decision regarding the request of the Saskatchewan government in the matter of joint action to relieve victims of property damage due to recent disastrous flooding? Has the government given approval to a proposal to the administrators of the Canadian disaster relief fund to allow contributions from that fund to be made to a voluntary Saskatchewan disaster fund if one is set up?

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** There has been no application that I know of from the administrators of the disaster fund to use any of the funds at their disposal in respect of the Saskatchewan or Manitoba situations. I am to meet representatives of the Red Cross this afternoon who have something over half a million dollars remaining in the fund that was created to relieve victims of the disasters in the United Kingdom and Holland. They wish to know, because this government was a contributor of \$1 million, if they could use the money for the ordinary relief purposes attended to by the Red Cross. My own feeling would be that they should be told they can use it, that we have sufficient confidence in the administration of the Canadian Red Cross to entrust them with the disposal of whatever surplus remains in that other fund. But that would perhaps require a resolution of the house because when we got the appropriation it was understood that it was for European relief. After I see them and get full details, I will probably be asking the house to agree that whatever portion of our contribution remains in the account may be used by them for the general welfare purposes that are attended to by the Red Cross.

With respect to the specific question about Saskatchewan, we have not yet received an application from the government of Manitoba, and we feel we would like to deal with the situations of both provinces at the same time because they resulted from the same climatic conditions. I understand the government of Manitoba is endeavouring to get its computations in order to be submitted.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

INQUIRY AS TO CONSIDERATION OF TRADE AND  
COMMERCE ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the stress laid earlier by