

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Fleming:** Yes, that subject was touched on as well as a number of others.

OIL—ALLEGED DUMPING OF SUPPLIES  
FROM VENEZUELA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Revenue. Is he ready yet to answer the question I asked him last week regarding the importation of oil—dumping—from Venezuela to Canada.

**Hon. G. C. Nowlan (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, there is no further answer, other than that which I gave the other day. As I said, crude oil imported into Canada for refining purposes comes in free of duty. If it can be proven that the oil is being dumped, duties automatically follow. The difficulty is to establish that such oil is being dumped.

Officials of my department are continuing investigations in this field at the moment. We have not received a report in respect to it because, as is obvious, it will take some considerable time to establish these matters. When the report has been received the government and the department will take such action as the facts indicate.

**Mr. Coldwell:** Does the minister not think that one of the means used for dumping is the reduced rates being charged by tankers transporting this oil?

**Mr. Nowlan:** That is possibly one of the factors; but, as I pointed out, the definition of dumping is the domestic price of the product in the country of origin compared with the price here, and though the questions of cheap labour and transportation may enter into it, the department is bound to consider only the factor I have mentioned.

WHEAT—ACCEPTANCE OF RUPEES IN PAYMENT  
BY INDIA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Irvin Studer (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce which has to do with wheat. There is a dispatch in the *Times* of India, printed in Bombay, which appeared just before Christmas, December 20 to be exact, which deals with an agreement in principle for \$300 million in economic aid to India, some of it to be lent by various sources. The important thing, to my mind, is that part of the announcement which relates to the sale of surplus United States farm commodities to be paid for in rupees.

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Studer:** The question is, since India is in the sterling bloc and is one of the commonwealth countries, is it the intention of the government to accept rupees in payment of wheat to accelerate our wheat sales, thereby meeting this competition?

**Mr. Argue:** You were against that seven months ago.

**An hon. Member:** You cannot prove that.

**Mr. Studer:** May I ask a supplementary question—

**Mr. Speaker:** There can be no supplementary question at this stage.

**Mr. Studer:** On a question of privilege—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member has put his question, and if the minister wishes to answer I will hear the minister.

**Mr. Studer:** May I submit a question of privilege, another question?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member has not asked for an answer to his question.

**Mr. Studer:** I was asking if it was the intention of the government to meet this competition of the United States whereby that country is accepting rupees for surplus farm products. Is the Canadian government to meet that competition by also accepting rupees, which I may not have advocated previously but the present government has—

**Mr. Churchill:** The hon. member said something earlier about accelerating the sale of our wheat. The sale of wheat under this government has been accelerated out of all recognition in comparison with what was done by the previous administration.

AUSTRALIA—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
SALE OF WHEAT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Louis Lewry (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre):** May I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and perhaps his closeness to the Minister of Finance will enable him to answer. Can the minister advise if the finishing touches have yet been put on any wheat deal with Australia?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** My hon. friend has been greatly interested in Australia for several weeks. I have in my hand a report on the wheat situation, No. 12, published by the bureau of agricultural economics, Canberra, Australia, 1957. This will corroborate what