

whether it is his intention to make this information available to the house?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, a great deal of valuable information is being obtained. We are now learning more about the operations of subsidiary companies in Canada than we ever knew before. Much of the information is being submitted on the understanding that it will be kept private, in that it has a bearing upon the competitive position of the companies. The information is now being assembled, and to the extent that I can do so I will be glad to make it available to hon. members of the house when my estimates are under consideration.

Mr. Saltzman: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the great interest and the need of people carrying out studies of this kind in Canada, will this information be collected in a form that will be available to the economists who are working in this field?

Mr. Winters: To the greatest extent possible, consistent with the secrecy aspects of some of the information.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NATO—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN ROLE OF CANADIAN FORCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who I see has left the house. I gave him notice of the question. I should now like to address it to the Prime Minister. In the light of the reported discussion between the President of the United States and the Chancellor of West Germany relating to a searching reappraisal of the threat to Atlantic security and the existence of a three nation—that is, American, German and British—study of changed force levels in NATO, does the Canadian government contemplate taking any steps to notify the representatives of these three governments of a desire to alter the future role of Canadian forces in NATO?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a pretty far reaching question. I know this matter is under discussion not only by the three members concerned but by the NATO council. Before I say anything more than that I think I had

Inquiries of the Ministry

better discuss the matter with the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who I believe was prepared to answer the question but was called out of the house.

OLD AGE SECURITY

CONTINUATION OF PAYMENTS TO DEPENDANTS OF DECEASED PENSIONER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wish to direct to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he say what consideration is being given to the request of the pensioners and senior citizens federation of Canada that the old age pension of a deceased pensioner be continued for six months in order that the surviving spouse be enabled to meet debts incurred by terminal illness?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am just wondering whether this is not the type of question that should be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Mather: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN INITIAL PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the minister reporting for the Canadian Wheat Board. I would ask the minister if he is now in a position to say whether any decision has been taken relative to the proposal that the initial payments on western wheat, oats and barley be increased.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Finance following the question asked by the hon. member for Springfield regarding the initial prices of wheat, oats and barley. Does the Minister of Finance, like the Prime Minister, take seriously the resolutions that were passed at the recent Liberal convention? I believe there was one involving this particular matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is repeating a question that was asked earlier today.