

or jobs are correlated with the membership drives of any Progressive Conservative riding association.

Mr. Graffey: Supercilious nonsense.

Mr. E. L. Morris (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Commerce): No.

TRADE

GRAIN—RATE OF STERLING EXCHANGE IN SALE TO CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. J. McIlraith (Ottawa West): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture in order to obtain clarification of some previous answers given by him with reference to the proposed sale of wheat and the long term agreement with communist China. In his announcement he is reported as having indicated the value of the contract as approximately \$362 million. There was no reference in that statement to sterling. Later on the same day—I refer to the day of the announcement—in answer to a question on the orders of the day he is reported as having said this, as found at page 4206 of *Hansard*:

—as I understand it all the payments will be made in sterling.

My question is this. Will he advise the house as to what rate of exchange he used in computing the dollar value given?

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice. However, I think more properly the question should go on the order paper.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Deeper and deeper secrecy.

Mr. McIlraith: I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: There is no occasion for a supplementary question when the original question is taken as notice. The hon. member may ask another question in due course. I recognize the hon. member for Gloucester.

COAL

RAND REPORT—STUDY BY INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys. On February 14, almost 12 weeks ago, the minister advised this house that the interdepartmental committee appointed to study the recommendations of the Rand commission was expected to complete its study within a few weeks. Is the minister now in a position to advise the

Inquiries of the Ministry

house whether the report has been received by the government? Also, is the minister in a position to report to the house on its findings?

(Translation):

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys): Mr. Speaker, only a few days ago I again asked the interdepartmental committee to hasten its consideration of the Rand report, so that the recommendations may be submitted to the cabinet committee. I was given the assurance that that study was almost completed, and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement shortly.

(Text):

POWER

COLUMBIA RIVER—DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN JUSTICE MINISTER AND U.S. INTERIOR SECRETARY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. My question is based upon the curiosity of a lot of people and a number of phone calls.

In view of a report in the Vancouver *Sun* yesterday that the minister was meeting with Mr. Udall, United States secretary of the interior, to discuss Canada's failure to ratify the Columbia river treaty; and in view of the fact that the United States secretary of the interior told a press conference in Ottawa yesterday, "We are champing at the bit", has the minister any information to give the house with respect to his discussions with the United States secretary of the interior on the Columbia river treaty?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was good enough to send me notice of his intention to ask this question. May I first correct a misapprehension appearing in it and state positively that Canada has not failed to ratify the Columbia river treaty.

With regard to my discussions yesterday with Mr. Udall, United States secretary of the interior, these were of course confidential, but apparently the secretary of the interior was reported as saying at a press conference that the United States is anxious to get on with the construction of the projects called for under the treaty. I can make no comment on that. The remarks of the secretary of the interior are self explanatory.

I can, however, say that this government is also anxious to see construction started at the earliest possible moment in order that the benefits of the treaty may be realized, and that the 31 million man-hours of employment on at-site construction in Canada may begin