

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

September 14. This is from the letter which I wrote to Premier Roblin yesterday.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** When; was it in the afternoon or in the morning?

**Mr. Sharp:** This letter had been sent out in the morning. I was not able to read the mind of the Leader of the Opposition, and if I had tried to I would not have been very successful. This was done on our own initiative. May I read the sentences:

The current economic situation lends additional urgency to federal-provincial consultation on fiscal and economic questions. Action may be required to deal with the current economic situation of a nature that would concern provincial governments as well as the federal government. Such action might well have some bearing on the fiscal arrangements we will be discussing.

I suggest therefore that we consider this question at the start of our meeting.

Accordingly, the first item on the suggested agenda appended is the economic situation and its relationship to federal-provincial fiscal arrangements.

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question to clear up some of the more obscure aspects of this question of the minister. In view of the statement made by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Davis) to the western Liberal association in Saskatoon that the federal government is leaving resource development out in the cold and his demand that it meet this challenge more aggressively, would the Minister of Finance inform the house whether the question of resource development will be considered at this conference in relation to fiscal policy?

**Mr. Sharp:** Yes, it will.

**AGRICULTURE****SASKATCHEWAN—REQUEST FOR SURVEY OF DROUGHT AREA**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. So much rumour has been spread around about the abundance of the crop in western Canada that I am wondering whether the drought stricken area northwest of Meadow Lake from Dorintosh west through Peerless to Goodsoil and extending into Alberta has been drawn to his attention. This is an emergency situation and I should hope he would be making arrangements to send a survey team into this area.

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** I have not had that matter drawn to my attention by the provincial government as yet, Mr. Speaker, but I will be glad to take notice of the hon. member's representations and look into the matter.

**Mr. F. J. Bigg (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Has anything been done about a similar situation which occurred in the area last year?

**Mr. Greene:** No application has been received to date from the provincial government for aid in this regard.

[Translation]

**NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE****QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO EVALUATION PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. Minister of Manpower.

Following the brief that the National Unemployment Insurance Commission Association forwarded to the minister, is the latter in a position to inform the house whether he intends to take immediate action to correct the injustices which have found their way into the National Employment Service employee assessment program.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, out of 626 employees at the National Employment Service in the province of Quebec, 178 were not classified. Our intention is to interview each of the 178 employees and to try and see how we can deal with each case, if possible.

[English]

**SHIPPING****CHURCHILL—REQUEST FOR GREATER USE IN GRAIN SHIPMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humbolt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance in his capacity as the minister under whose jurisdiction the Canadian Wheat Board falls. In view of the fact that Russia already has some ships at the port of Churchill to pick up wheat they have purchased from Canada, would the minister consider keeping this sea route open by the use of icebreakers or even submarines so they could pick up the wheat