

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN**WHEAT—STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT  
CANADIAN PRODUCERS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, before asking a question I would like to draw the attention of the house to a change in the seating arrangements of our party. Our caucus has selected the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher) as deputy house leader of our party, and I would like to welcome him to this position.

In directing my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce I would like to welcome him back from the GATT conference, I hope with his head bloody but unbowed. In view of the United States farmers' vote in favour of the unhampered production of wheat, will the minister inform the house what steps the government intends to take to protect the interests of Canadian wheat producers, and whether he will initiate discussions with the government of the United States regarding a joint program for the orderly disposition of wheat surpluses?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I have only been home a few hours but I will do my best to answer the question. As hon. members are aware, the vote of the United States farmers yesterday rejected their government's proposal for a new price support program which was to have started on July 1, 1964. I think it is premature to draw any inferences from this result until the subject has been further clarified because it is, of course, possible for the congress of the United States to take further action.

May I say, in reply to the specific question asked by the hon. member, that the government of Canada is in constant consultation with the United States government on the question of the orderly disposition of wheat surpluses. When I was in Geneva I had some discussions with the representatives of the United States government, and these will be followed up immediately.

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary question may I ask the minister whether this means that the government will still be able to proceed with the implementation of its pledge to pay the farmers a guaranteed price of \$2 a bushel for their wheat?

**Mr. Sharp:** I was not here, sir, but I understand that the Prime Minister made it clear this is a matter of government policy that will be announced in due course.

[Mr. Pearson.]

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up the subject raised by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam and put a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the President of the United States has stated publicly that the rejection of the United States government's wheat proposal will deal a serious blow to the whole economy of the United States, would the Prime Minister go to President Kennedy, as the previous government went to President Eisenhower, and get the assurance of the president that there will not be an extension of public law 480, particularly dealing with giveaways, to move more U.S. wheat into commercial markets?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to maintain my close and friendly contacts with the president on the protection of Canada's interests in this and other matters.

**Mr. Hamilton:** Mr. Speaker, I would like an answer to the specific point I raised. Will the Prime Minister get the assurance from the President of the United States that there will not be an extension of giveaways in the commercial markets of the world?

**Mr. Pearson:** I hope, Mr. Speaker, to be more effective in my representations on this and other matters than were the representations of the previous government.

OATS AND BARLEY—INQUIRY AS TO  
INITIAL PRICES AND QUOTAS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Agriculture a question with reference to the pamphlets put out indicating that the announcement of a higher initial price for oats and barley would be made prior to seeding. On page 142 of *Hansard* I am reported to have said:

—a pamphlet put out by the Liberal party during the campaign to the effect that the initial prices for oats and barley would be announced during seeding.

What I did say was "prior to seeding". That will have an effect on the answer of the minister.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. As a guide to western farmers, can the minister inform the house whether there will be an open quota on grain delivery for the present crop year, as there was in the last?

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** I apologize, Mr. Speaker, but I will have to take the question as notice and give an answer tomorrow.