

Inquiries of the Ministry

as the Canadian national flag with the kind of ceremony which will be worthy of such an important national occasion. It will be a matter of some weeks.

[*Translation.*]

Mr. Gérard Girouard (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put to the right hon. Prime Minister a question supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer).

Should there be a ceremony to mark the inauguration of the new flag while the house is not sitting, and inasmuch as the distinctive national flag is the result of the joint effort of the various members and political parties of the house, does the Prime Minister intend to invite the members of the various political parties in the house to attend and participate in the inaugural ceremony of the new Canadian flag?

[*Text.*]

Mr. Pearson: Yes, indeed. I would hope this would be a parliamentary occasion.

GRAIN**WHEAT—STATEMENT BY NORTHERN AFFAIRS MINISTER**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Ou'Appelle): The matter I now raise has been before me for some time but this is the first occasion I can find to put it forward.

An hon. Member: Procedural difficulties.

Mr. Hamilton: I ask this question because I think it should be cleared up. Some of us have a feeling that this may be the last day for this parliament to sit.

Some hon. Members: Parliament?

Mr. Hamilton: My question has to do with the policy of the government concerning a matter which is of great significance in western Canada. It is addressed to the Prime Minister. Does the statement made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources in Saskatoon to the annual convention of the Saskatchewan Liberal party to the effect that a two-price system for wheat under which domestic purchasers would pay a higher price than the subsidized export price would be too much of a burden on domestic consumers, represent the policy of the government?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I have not seen the statement to which the hon. member has referred. I would wish to

[*Mr. Pearson.*]

examine it carefully before replying because it deals with a very important matter. I will give an answer as soon as I have had a chance to consider the matter.

INDIAN AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF COURT OF CLAIMS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): In the kindly spirit of Christmas I should like to address a question to the kindly Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and ask him whether he can tell us anything at all about the progress of the Indian claims commission.

[*Translation.*]

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the amended bill has been accepted by myself and by the officers of my department, and the next step will be the discussion of this new bill amended by the cabinet committee on legislation.

[*Text.*]

HEALTH AND WELFARE**INQUIRY AS TO CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED BY ROYAL COMMISSION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the Hall commission report strongly recommended a federal-provincial conference within six months, what steps have been taken toward the calling of such a conference bearing in mind that tomorrow six months will have elapsed since the report was published.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I think the hon. member was in the house on many occasions when this question was discussed. There is to be a meeting some time in the new year. Recently the premiers have indicated that they would prefer it not to be held too soon.

HARBOURS**VANCOUVER—RELOCATION OF INDUSTRIES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I wish to address a question to the Minister of Transport. This is a question of urgency; it is not a matter for the order paper. It arises out of the meeting the minister had