

Sale of Wheat to Czechoslovakia

Washington. I do not want to put my questions on the order paper in the United States congress.

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES**MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN SECOND REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier) presented the second report of the standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines, and asked for unanimous consent to move that the report be concurred in.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, before the report is concurred in, I would like to point out that, at this morning's meeting, the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines unanimously agreed to a motion requesting the interested authorities to see to it that the reports of the committee are published in both languages at the same time, in view of the fact that this morning we received only the English text, although the committee had asked that, in future, the report be published simultaneously in both French and English.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: In reply to the hon. member for Lapointe I must say that the only question before the house is this motion. Therefore I propose we restrict ourselves to the motion which has been presented.

Motion agreed to.

TRADE**WHEAT—ANNOUNCEMENT OF SALE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who is away on public business, I wish to announce that he has just signed, on behalf of the Canadian government, a long term wheat agreement with the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. In connection with the negotiation of the agreement, the Minister of Trade and Commerce welcomed to Ottawa Mr. J. Poula, Czechoslovak vice minister of foreign trade, who is in the gallery today witnessing our proceedings. Mr. Poula signed the agreement on behalf of the government of his country.

The agreement is for a period of five years during which Czechoslovakia will purchase and Canada will supply 1.2 million metric tons of Canadian wheat, that is, about 44 million bushels, for shipment in the following

[Mr. Nielsen.]

quantities: In the first year of the agreement, 350,000 metric tons, of which 120,000 tons will be shipped before July 31, 1964; in the second year of the agreement, between 300,000 and 400,000 tons; in the third, fourth and fifth years, a combined total of between 450,000 and 550,000 metric tons, provided that the quantity in each of these years shall not be less than 120,000 tons.

The Canadian wheat board and Koospol have concluded the first sales contract under this agreement, which provides for the shipment of 120,000 metric tons of wheat during the summer of 1964. Purchases under this agreement will be facilitated by the extension of credit arrangements under the Export Credits Insurance Act providing for payment over three years.

There is a long standing tradition of friendly and fruitful trade relations between Canada and Czechoslovakia. The house will share my view that this important new agreement between the two governments is a clear indication of the desire of both parties to see an increase in the development of mutually advantageous trade.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I am sure all Canadians will welcome the extension of these sales to countries behind the iron curtain. I should like to say a word of appreciation to his excellency the ambassador for Czechoslovakia for the very long and careful negotiations he has carried on with the Canadian government over the last two or three years leading up to this long term agreement. Since the announcement was made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I think he can assure the house that there are documents on file outlining the conditions that we thought would make an excellent basis for a long term agreement. I am pleased indeed to see that this idea has been put into effect and has been accepted by both parties.

I think, too, the house will recognize the wisdom of the course followed a year ago, when the first item of business in that new parliament was the extension of the Export Credits Insurance Act to provide \$400 million under this act to cover these new sales. I hope that new sales announced in the next week or so will be of equal size to the one we have heard about today.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): I am sure the people of Canada are not particularly concerned about which government was in office when these negotiations were started. What the people of Canada will be pleased to know is that an agreement has been concluded. We in this party would like to offer our congratulations to the Canadian wheat board upon concluding this agreement,