

HOUSING**DISTRIBUTION OF TEXT OF MINISTER'S SPEECH**

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the minister in charge of housing. If the hon. gentleman has a formal and prepared text that he is going to use when introducing the housing legislation will he make it available immediately to spokesmen of the opposition parties, so that they can follow it as he speaks?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker.

HIGHWAYS**CALGARY MEETING ON PAVING OF ALASKA HIGHWAY**

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I also have a non-passport question to direct to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the United States government requested the permission of the Canadian government for a Congressional subcommittee to hold public hearings in Calgary, Alberta, on June 19 on the subject of paving the Alaska Highway?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have to take that question as notice.

GRAIN**WHEAT—CASH PAYMENT TO FARMERS—TWO-PRICE SYSTEM—FLOOR PRICE**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Has he anything to report to the house on the results of the meeting held this morning by himself, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon (Mr. Lang) with representatives of western agriculture who called for an immediate cash payment of \$2,000 for each wheat farmer, for the establishment of a two-price system for wheat and for the establishment of a government-farmer group to develop a comprehensive grain policy?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the hon. member that it was not a group from western Canada. There were representatives from all over Canada at the meeting this morning. I can only add to that that it was a useful discussion.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can he indicate to the house whether he advised the agricultural representatives with whom he was speaking this morning that the government is giving favourable consideration to the three matters I mentioned and which they raised.

Mr. Olson: Yes, indeed, and the meeting is going on this afternoon with several senior officials of the Department of Agriculture.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question arising out of an answer given a few moments ago to question No. 2183 which reads as follows:

Will the government give favourable consideration immediately to giving a guaranteed floor price for wheat for the years 1969 and 1970?

The answer as I heard it was that the floor price is \$1.70 per bushel. I never have heard that that was the floor price, but that was the answer. I ask the minister what representations have been made by representatives of agriculture either this morning or earlier this week concerning what the floor price should be, so that the western farmer will not find himself in an impossible position by reason of the inflation of the cost of those things he must buy and his inability to sell the wheat he has.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question, and not trying to answer the debate raised in the question—

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is no debate. It is a fact.

Mr. Olson: —the reply that was made regarding the price of \$1.70 did not indicate that it was a floor price. It was said it was the initial price which also constituted a floor price. The other part of the question concerned what representations have been made. I am sure the right hon. gentleman knows we have received many and varied representations concerning what the floor price ought to be and indeed on what basis the other prices established in the wheat industry ought to be.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am glad the minister has confirmed I was right in my interpretation of the answer given a moment ago. Among the representations made will he tell the house what the spread is between the present initial price of \$1.70 and the maximum asked for by the farm organizations as a basic price.