

Inquiries of the Ministry

it intends to bring before the House of Commons, and will this matter receive early attention immediately after the speech from the throne has been voted on?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, this matter will receive early attention and I hope to make an announcement before long.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Is the Prime Minister in a position to say that the matter will be placed before the House of Commons by way of impeachment?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that the right hon. gentleman wait until I make the announcement in the house concerning the course we will recommend to parliament.

FINANCE**QUEBEC—PROVINCIAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE SCHEME**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Since the passage of the Canada Deposit Insurance Act have the minister, his officials or any of the officers of the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation had any discussions with the government of the province of Quebec with regard to the separate scheme which that province has indicated it wishes to set up? In addition, is it the minister's information that the federally incorporated chartered banks will be subject to a double impost in the event of there being a provincial scheme?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. gentleman that the question should be placed on the order paper.

TRADE**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON GENEVA TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce whether he can make a report to the house in respect of the current tariff negotiations at Geneva and, in particular, whether he can say if a breakdown is as imminent as seems likely from this morning's news reports. If so, what initiative is the Canadian government taking to protect Canada's trade in wheat and other important commodities?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations at Geneva have reached another of their delicate and critical stages. The secretary general has just issued a communiqué saying he still is hopeful that agreement can be reached through concerted effort and good will on the part of those concerned. Most negotiating teams have returned to their countries to receive further instructions. It is expected, however, that negotiations will resume later this week, probably on Friday. Sunday has been set as the termination date. It is hoped that agreement in some degree can be reached by that time.

So far as the role of the government is concerned, we have been in close consultation. I have been in Geneva myself a number of times, as have some of my colleagues. I am returning to Geneva tomorrow and will be accompanied by the chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board. A number of wheat board officers are there now, and it is likely that by the end of the week I will be joined by the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. Apart from the movement of bodies does the government plan any new initiatives?

Mr. Winters: Mr. Speaker, this has been a process of continuing initiatives. I think the role of Canada is clearly understood by all our negotiating partners.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I ask what progress is being made toward agreement concerning cereal grains. I have particular reference to the statement which appeared in the press to the effect that the two groups of governments which were bargaining were getting close to a figure which has been mentioned as \$1.72 to \$1.74. Can the minister give us any information on this rather strange figure which has been quoted in the press?

Mr. Winters: That is purely speculative. We never have revealed the precise figure because we are negotiating; otherwise there would be no negotiation. We are, however, asking for a substantial increase over the present price under the I.W.A.

Mr. Nesbitt: Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Trade and Commerce tell us whether he will still be receiving the advice of the Minister of Agriculture on or about May 24?