

Inquiries of the Ministry

board are currently in Canton endeavouring to negotiate an extension of the wheat purchase arrangements under the over-all contract. I am hopeful that in due course a successful result will ensue.

As part of our trading arrangements we do exchange trade in other goods, and we should like that flow to increase. The specific means to achieve that will have to be worked out having regard to the political circumstances between the two countries.

Mr. Hamilton: To be very specific, I think some 22 nations have granted China the right to set up trade offices in their countries. On several occasions in the past I have asked about the policy of the government in this regard but I have never been able to get a precise answer. In view of the very promising statement made by the minister in Geneva on November 22, will he not make an effort now to invite the Chinese to set up a trade office here so Canadian businessmen can meet with officials of that country in this country instead of travelling all the way to China?

Mr. Winters: That is a matter to which we will have to give consideration, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to those directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, which I should like to pose to the Prime Minister. In view of the minister's replies does the Prime Minister think now might be an appropriate time to commence negotiations for an exchange of diplomatic relations with Peking China?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I do not think this would be the most appropriate moment, Mr. Speaker.

CRIMINAL CODE**SUGGESTED AMENDMENT RESPECTING
BREATHALIZER TESTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I wished to address to the Minister of Justice. Perhaps in his absence somebody else might take it as notice. Having in mind the minister's earlier statement in respect of amendments to the Criminal Code to provide for a mandatory test for drinking drivers, can it be indicated when it is hoped to introduce legislation on that point, particularly having in mind the fact that similar action in Great Britain recently has reduced the death rate on the roads by 40 per cent?

[Mr. Winters.]

GRAIN**WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO CLOSING
OF POOL ACCOUNTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I welcome him back to this low quota, low delivery and low income area. I should like to know when we may expect the 1966-67 wheat pool accounts to be closed off, and whether an attempt will be made to close them off as early as or earlier than last year.

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the observation about low income is relative. I have been in some countries recently where they would enjoy the standard of living we have in Canada. As to the matter of the date of the closing off of wheat pool accounts, I will take the question as notice and answer it in due course.

FINANCE**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF
HALF DOLLAR AND DOLLAR COINS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Since the government discontinued minting of 1967 50-cent pieces in July, and \$1 pieces in September, and Canadians are forced now to pay as high as \$3 for a 1967 Canadian 50-cent piece, will the minister reconsider this decision and again mint these Canadian coins so Canadians will not have to pay this exorbitant price?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): I will take note of the hon. member's suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS**DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING INCREASED
FISCAL POWERS OF YUKON COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the repeated indications by the Yukon legislative council that they desire to institute formal discussions with the federal government relating to increasing the fiscal powers of the council, will the Prime Minister indicate to the house whether the government is prepared to cooperate by participating in such talks with