

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

Superior, Wisconsin, was loading United States barley, and when it was unable to proceed with loading United States barley it moved to Fort William, where it will load 600,000 bushels of Canadian wheat, which I think is an improvement from the Canadian shipping point of view. The third ship which was picketed, I believe in Buffalo, has been cleared and the ship is operating.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The report says that this is going to be continued. I ask the Prime Minister now, has he been in touch with the President in this connection and protested against it?

**Mr. Pearson:** I have been in touch with the United States government as recently as this morning.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Not with the President on the "hot line".

REPORTED STATEMENT RESPECTING INTERFERENCE  
IN UNION AFFAIRS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. In the *Christian Science Monitor* of Saturday, under the byline of Associated Press and Reuters dispatches, there is this statement with reference to the trustees: "The trustees have agreed not to interfere with the union's internal affairs". Is this correct?

**Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I have not been talking to the trustees at all since last Wednesday night, but I did notice in the week end press that Mr. Justice Dryer stated on his arrival in Vancouver that no arrangements had been made with Banks as a prelude to getting the men back to work, and I think Mr. Millard, the other trustee, specifically dealt with this particular question and said that no commitment had been made with respect to any trusteeship decision, or that no commitment had been made by the trustees not to interfere in the operations of the S.I.U. So I think in this instance we must rely on a Canadian-made statement rather than a Boston-made statement.

BREAD

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO  
PRICE INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact that it requires an increase of 30 cents a bushel in the price of wheat to warrant an increase

of one cent a pound on a loaf of bread, has the restrictive trades practices branch looked into the recent increase in the price of bread? If so, is there any indication that the milling monopolies across Canada have once again been guilty of price fixing, as they were found to be guilty some time ago?

**Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the director of research in the combines investigation branch is keeping under surveillance the question of prices of bread. He had the matter up for discussion with me prior to his departure for Paris and the United Kingdom, which was a short time ago. At that time he gave no indication to me that there was sufficient evidence before him to warrant a prosecution.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask a supplementary question. If the minister's department has not been able to make a full investigation, would he consider referring this matter to the committee on agriculture and colonization for a full study of bread prices as related to flour and wheat prices?

**Mr. Chevrier:** As the hon. gentleman knows, the jurisdiction of the Minister of Justice is under the Combines Investigation Act, and that will be pursued. So far as the other matter is concerned I would have no objection, but it would not be my decision to refer the matter. If that is the wish of the house, I think there are methods whereby that can be done.

**Mr. Douglas:** Would the minister agree, in view of the ruling today by Mr. Speaker, that any matter referred to the committee must originate with the government? I have not had an answer. Could I ask the Secretary of State as government house leader if the government would be prepared to refer this matter to the committee on agriculture and colonization?

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State):** I would not think of committing the government without consulting with my colleagues. I will be very glad to do that and report to the house.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

WINTER WORKS—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION  
OF PERIOD

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

**Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour.

Since today is the 28th of October, has the government decided to have the winter works program initiated on October 30 instead of