

Proposed Legislation

board with respect to its operation under the Canadian Fisherman's Loan Act, less the deficit of the board on its operation under the act and the amount of outstanding loans.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC SERVICE**PROVISION FOR EQUAL PAY TO FEMALE EMPLOYEES FOR EQUAL WORK**

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide equal pay for female employees as compared with male employees of the same employer, for identical or substantially identical work in federal works, undertakings or businesses; and to provide further under the enforcement procedure for the appointment of referees who may be paid such allowances and expenses as may be approved by the treasury board.

Motion agreed to.

INDIAN ACT**AMENDMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION, AMOUNT OF LOANS, ETC.**

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) moved that the house go into committee at the next sitting to consider the following resolution, which has been recommended to the house by His Excellency:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Indian Act to provide for a number of changes in connection with the administration of the act; and to provide further that the Minister of Finance may from time to time advance to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration out of the consolidated revenue fund such sums of money as the minister may require for loans to Indians under section 69 of the act;

The total amount of outstanding advances under the said section not to exceed at any one time one million dollars in lieu of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars as at present.

Motion agreed to.

GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION RESPECTING ADVANCES ON FARM STORAGE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the continuing representations made by the western farm organizations, is the government giving reconsideration to the decision it previously made not to grant advances on farm-stored wheat?

[Mr. Harris.]

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the government's program for wheat is at present on the order paper. If any further measures are decided upon, they will also appear on the order paper.

Mr. Diefenbaker: So that means there are no advances.

BUTTER**SALES TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF AGREEMENTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. G. Hansell (Macleod): May I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture? It is supplementary to the questions asked yesterday in respect of the sale of surplus butter. Would the minister care to lay on the table of the house the full text of the agreement or agreements in respect of the sale of that butter to those designated countries?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): There is no objection to that being done, Mr. Speaker.

HOUSING**REQUEST FOR SPEED-UP IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the serious and tragic loss of life in Canada this winter because of fires, mostly in substandard dwellings, will the minister discuss with his colleagues the possibility of a real speed-up in the government's housing program so these tragedies might not continue to occur?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we all, of course, have been sorrowfully impressed by the number of casualties that have occurred recently. I do not know whether or not they have occurred in substandard dwellings. I understand that official investigations are being conducted; also that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is implementing the provisions of that act just as expeditiously as possible. It is my understanding that 125,000 new dwelling units were completed last year and that the prospects for the coming year are for completion of an even larger number than that.