

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Michael Starr (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the seriousness of this situation would the Prime Minister not agree to make a statement in the house on motions within the next day or two dealing with the matter?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. That seems to be a good and reasonable suggestion. Perhaps we shall be able to do that tomorrow or the next day.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the drop in the price of wheat could cost the prairie farmers over \$100 million this year and as the international wheat agreement expired on July 31 and the new agreement will not be effective until the middle of 1968, would the Prime Minister say whether the government intends to take any steps in the near future to implement the promise he made to guarantee the farmers a payment of \$2 a bushel f.o.b. Fort William?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, the question of wheat prices is under consideration. Perhaps my hon. friend could have restricted his remarks to that and not gone back into old election controversies.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would take a more broad minded, non-political attitude we could make more progress.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): May I ask the Prime Minister whether it is his intention to indicate by his remarks, that all his promises are to be treated as lightly as he has treated that one?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As we have already had four or five supplementary questions I suggest we move to another matter to allow other hon. members to ask questions. If there is time, and I assume there will be, we can return to the subject.

[Later:]

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is supplementary to one raised earlier by the hon. member for Bow River. I am sorry that the Chair did not look my way when I rose to speak. In reply to the hon. member the

[Mr. Pearson.]

Prime Minister said that he would ask the minister concerned to report later in respect of the 22 cent drop in the price of wheat because he felt the question was important. Would the Prime Minister ask the minister to indicate when replying, why the international wheat agreement lapsed? I think this is the important question in this whole matter.

Mr. Reg Cantelon (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, I feel this question is properly addressed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the wheat crop in western Canada has been somewhat less than average but of extremely high quality, what measures is the government taking to see that this high quality wheat is moved into the markets of the world?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to discuss this with the minister. I wish he were here today.

[Translation]

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**QUEBEC—CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL UNITY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister concerning the delicate situation now existing in the field of federal relations with Quebec.

Does the government intend to call a meeting of the federal members from the province of Quebec to discuss the problem of national unity and the Quebec situation in order to obtain from them a free non-partisan opinion to which the government might give consideration during federal-provincial conferences, should agreements be concluded? If so, when can we expect that such a meeting will be called?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that there will be an opportunity in parliament before long to discuss this important matter. That discussion, I am sure, will not be restricted to the federal members of parliament for Quebec.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—INQUIRY AS TO SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of reports that a few