

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRADE

INCREASED IMPORTS FROM CHINA TO STIMULATE
WHEAT SALES

subject; I would hope that this time we will be able to achieve a somewhat more satisfactory result than was achieved on that occasion. I hope that this time we will get a happier conclusion to the meeting, but in any event I want to make it clear that any hon. members who care to come in, subject to the room being large enough to hold them, are most welcome.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, will it be permissible for the rest of the hon. members of this house now to enter into the debate which has been opened by the Minister of Transport?

NATIONAL DEFENCE

USE OF CANADIAN AIRFIELDS BY U.S. PLANES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Defence. This morning's *Globe and Mail* carries an article which says:

The air defence commands of the Royal Canadian Air Force and U.S. air force have signed an agreement enabling U.S. interceptors to use 22 Canadian airfields more readily and with greater safety.

May I ask the minister whether this is correct and if it is the matter about which he told the house on May 29 he had received no official communication?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I saw the press report in this morning's newspaper relating to an alleged agreement between the commanders of the air defence commands of Canada and the United States enabling U.S. interceptors to use 22 Canadian airfields. I should like to state that this story had no foundation in fact whatever.

An agreement was signed in November, 1962 by the two commanders concerned, but this agreement referred solely to the application of peace time air traffic control procedures with respect to the interceptors of one country flying in the air space of the other, and the provision of supporting services when these aircraft are being serviced at bases in the other country. This concerns flights which take place in peace time in connection with air defence training exercises which are provided for under the NORAD agreement, and has no relationship to the question of dispersal of United States air defence squadrons, to which I referred on May 29 in the house.

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On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. R. Southam (Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the widespread concern expressed in the past few days by farm organizations and writers in farm papers with respect to the tough bargaining attitude of red China in connection with further wheat purchases by that country from Canada, could the minister advise this house, in view of his government's general advocacy of free trade, whether it is the intention of the present government to accept large increases in Chinese goods in order to help stimulate further wheat sales to that country?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, if this question is in order may I say to the hon. gentleman that we are conducting these negotiations in a way which I hope will have a successful outcome. I do not know what the results will be in terms of the particular matter raised by the hon. member.

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): A supplementary question. May I ask the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in view of what my hon. friend for Moose Mountain has said, and also in view of the report in yesterday's paper that Australia has sold her entire surplus of a record 1962-63 crop to red China and Japan, whether he can assure the growers of grain in this country that Canada will retain her share of the world market, even to the extent of giving ministerial assistance to the delegates over there at the present time, as was done by the former administration?

Mr. Sharp: I can assure the hon. member that we are doing our very best to recover the position we occupied some time ago. When I took over this portfolio our shipments and sales were low.

OIL—REPORTED U.S. INTENTION TO RESTRICT
IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, which stems from an article in today's *Globe and Mail* headed "U.S. Revises Oil Import Quotas". The article goes on to say:

—there would be no further rise in Canadian shipments for the remainder of 1963—

—and it says the formula setting the ceiling has been changed and the change will go