

Inquiries of the Ministry

study under Dr. Deutsch will be conducted on Atlantic union, would the Prime Minister be prepared to indicate the federal interest in such a union and say whether formal representations will be made by the federal government to such a study?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure any federal government would be most interested in this study initiated by the provinces concerned. If the federal government were asked for its views on a matter of such importance, I am sure it would be very glad indeed to give them.

Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert): A supplementary question. Would the Prime Minister be prepared to offer all the co-operation possible in so far as any constitutional roadblocks which might present themselves? For example, we in the maritimes would not want our senatorial floor reduced because of union. Matters such as this would be important.

Mr. Pearson: Of course, Mr. Speaker, a senatorial floor is not a roadblock.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR PROMPT PAYMENT
TO WESTERN FARMERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce arising out of the statement he made earlier. Would the minister use his influence and best offices with the wheat board to see that cheques are sent out to those farmers in difficult circumstances in western Canada who need funds. I include in this request, of course, those farmers who might want to come to Ottawa for a certain event next week and who otherwise might not have the funds to get here.

**INQUIRY AS TO PROSPECTS FOR
COMING YEAR**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the confidence reflected in the announcement regarding the record wheat payment, I would ask the minister whether he has sufficient confidence in future markets for Canadian produced grain to encourage farmers to grow even more wheat than last year.

[Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert).]

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have always found the judgment of the Canadian farmers to be pretty good in this field, and I am sure they are quite willing to adapt to the circumstances in the market place.

FISHERIES**SEALING—REQUEST FOR COMPREHENSIVE
STATEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, with the approach of the end of this portion of the session I wonder whether the Prime Minister would consider giving an answer to the very frightening descriptions of the seal slaughter which have appeared in the British press, with widespread allegations to the effect that cruelty and brutality were practised and that while there has been some improvement in the slaughter, that in no way removes a dark cloud over Canada.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I agree that the report in the newspaper in question, the *Daily Mirror*, does involve a dark cloud over Canada, however unwarranted that report may be; and I believe it is unwarranted. Steps are being taken to investigate the situation, and to reply to the charges.

DRUGS**REPORTED LARGE SCALE COUNTERFEITING
OF PRODUCTS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I direct my question to the Prime Minister. On March 21 the hon. member for Saskatoon made inquiries of the minister about an increase in the incidence of counterfeit drugs in Canada. I wonder if the Prime Minister could advise the house whether the government has taken any investigative action.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know the minister commenced an investigation. I do not know whether the investigation is yet completed, but I will look into it and see whether I can get some information to my hon. friend before the house rises.