

Inquiries of the Ministry

public life he was a good example of one who left the academic field in order to devote himself to the public service. He had the respect of all who knew him and worked with him. We in this party would like to express our admiration for the contribution he made to the public life of Canada, and express our deep sympathy to his wife and the members of his family.

• (2:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, we of the Ralliement Crémiste are sorry to hear about the death of the Hon. John Bracken. My colleagues and myself wish to join with the other members of the house to extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved family. I knew Mr. Bracken in 1946 at the time he was Leader of the Opposition. He was a hard worker and a worthy leader of the official opposition in the House of Commons. I must point out that, on the death of Mr. Bracken, Canada mourns the loss of a loyal and devoted Canadian.

[English]

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

GRAIN

COMPENSATION FOR SHORTFALL FROM PRICES UNDER INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister say what reply the government has made to the communication of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture asking for an immediate announcement by the government that the government will make up to the producer any shortfall from the minimum prices under the International Grains Arrangement?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I did not personally receive this request; I presume it went to the Prime Minister. As I indicated in my statement last Friday, it is our objective to work with the other exporters to ensure the restoration of the existing I.G.A. price range and bring back stability in wheat pricing. We have not given up that objective.

[Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

DIPLOMATIC EFFORT TO PREVENT BREAK-DOWN IN MARKETING

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. My question arises from the minister's answer and from the statement made by Mr. William Hamilton on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture in his letter to the Prime Minister. It is stated in the letter that a major diplomatic effort by the government is needed to prevent a breakdown of the international machinery for grains marketing. Can the Prime Minister assure the house that such an effort, and the effect referred to by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, is in fact being made? Will he also indicate specifically some of the concrete initiatives the government is taking in this respect?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. When I am in Washington next week I intend to raise this subject with the President of the United States and have our officials discuss various aspects of it. I intend also to do the same with the Prime Minister of Australia who will be here in the succeeding week. I intend to discuss any common approach we might have on a bilateral basis before going to any world council on this problem.

WHEAT—ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF PRICES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): One further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister confirm that a meeting of the International Grains Arrangement price review committee was held in London yesterday? Was Canada represented and if so by whom? Is the minister in a position to report on the meeting or can he say when and where the other meetings referred to by him on Friday last, when he unfortunately had to make this rather dismal announcement to the house, will be held?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the Minister of Agriculture referred to that meeting of the prices review committee which began yesterday in London and is continuing today. However I do not yet have a report on it.

This meeting is a regular one. It was called a number of months ago. Canada is represented there by officials of my department and of