

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, November 13, 1953

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL

STATUTORY ORDERS AND REGULATIONS MAY TO
NOVEMBER, 1953

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I should like to lay on the table two copies in English and French of the *Canada Gazette*, part II, containing statutory orders and regulations, published fortnightly from May 13 to November 11 of this year, both dates inclusive.

Also two copies of the summary of orders in council passed during the period May 1 to October 31.

(For complete list of departmental and other reports tabled, see *Votes and Proceedings*, No. 2, of November 13, 1953.)

GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO ASSIST
PRAIRIE FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called I would like to direct a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) of which I have not given notice and, therefore, this may be taken as notice. I believe it is a matter of urgent importance. Has the government under consideration any legislation to deal with the situation arising from the vast accumulation of grain in the prairie provinces, and any provision for payment to the small farmers in respect of grain which they are not now able to sell?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): The government's policies in that regard will be announced in due course. I am not at liberty to disclose any legislation about it at this moment.

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, might I ask a further question of the Prime Minister with reference to the question raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew). Have representations been made to the government as to conditions in western Canada requiring loans on farm storage in order to assist western farmers at

this time and, particularly, to help retail merchants in the situation in which they find themselves?

Mr. St. Laurent: Yes.

POLIOMYELITIS

INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO
AFFECTED PERSONS IN WESTERN PROVINCES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin)? Is the government considering the establishment of a fund to provide financial assistance to the large number of families in Manitoba and other western provinces who have been hit hard by this year's poliomyelitis epidemic?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is not the intention of the government to provide such a fund in respect of a matter that comes so obviously within the competence and direct interest of provincial governments. It may be appropriate to make an additional observation regarding the unfortunate situation that did exist and, to a certain extent, still exists in Manitoba and other western provinces. The action the federal government took in the arrangement it had made with the Connaught Laboratories in Toronto for the supply of gamma globulin was a very important contribution. In addition, very substantial equipment involving substantial amounts of money was provided in the way of iron lungs and so on to meet the emergency. To the extent that the following observation applies, my hon. friend will note, although he has not commended the government for its action, that the government, as mentioned in the speech from the throne, proposes a nationwide system to provide disability allowances for totally disabled persons.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe), and I apologize for only giving him notice a few moments ago. Has the government given consideration to the