

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the last half of the question is obviously one for the order paper.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Chevrier: In so far as the first half is concerned, I think I will have to draw it to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture.

REQUEST FOR OPEN MARKET FOR GRAIN AS
BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Agriculture but he is a busy man, so I will direct it to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I think he can answer it. Is it the intention of the government to have a more open grain market between the western and eastern provinces such as exists between the United States and our eastern provinces now?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member gave me notice of this question, but it has not helped me very much to answer it. I am afraid I do not understand the purport of the question, because I find it difficult to make a comparison between the situation that exists as between the United States and the eastern provinces and the situation that exists as between the western provinces and eastern provinces of Canada. I hope the hon. gentleman will rephrase his question and put it on the order paper.

Mr. Langlois: It is very short. One can order wheat or corn from the United States for delivery directly to the eastern provinces, and you cannot do so in Canada from the western provinces.

[*Later:*]

Mr. Langlois: I should like to address my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce or to the acting Prime Minister. What has been done in response to representations made a few weeks ago by the farmers' union of Quebec concerning eastern and western grain sales?

Mr. Sharp: Perhaps I might be permitted to answer that question. This whole question of the movement of grain from western to eastern Canada has been engaging the attention of the government, and there have been representations from many sources. I can assure the hon. member that we are not lacking in representations. We are looking into this matter and following it continuously.

[Mr. McIntosh.]

REDISTRIBUTION

INQUIRY AS TO CHAIRMAN OF PROPOSED
COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisca-
mingue):** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Has the chief electoral officer, Mr. Castonguay, been approached by the minister or other persons in authority to become chairman of the proposed new commission for redefining the electoral boundaries?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): There is no such office proposed and therefore it would not be possible to suggest to Mr. Castonguay that he be considered for the office described by the hon. gentleman. However, I do not want to quibble. There is a resolution on the order paper having to do with a representation commissioner and I intend, as soon as we reach orders of the day, to discuss this at length. I shall be glad at that time to answer what I think is the hon. gentleman's question.

GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM AND FINAL PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can he indicate whether there is going to be an early interim payment some time in the new year, or an early final payment on last year's wheat crop, to take care of the lack of capital of farmers on the prairies?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in reply to a similar question the other day I said I had already had a preliminary discussion with the wheat board, and they intend to follow the same procedure as in other years. I am sorry I cannot give a date at the present time.

POWER

HAMILTON FALLS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY
ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and
Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. Could the minister advise us whether the Atlantic development board is going to assist in financing the Hamilton Falls development, as was indicated by Premier Smallwood of Newfoundland over station CJON last Sunday morning?