

*Inquiries of the Ministry***AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR ROYAL COMMISSION TO  
INVESTIGATE PRICE SPREADS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the government under consideration the establishment of a royal commission to inquire into the great spread between the low prices paid to producers of agricultural products and the high retail prices charged consumers?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I could answer that question in the usual way and say it is a matter of government policy, but I may say to my hon. friend that the government has given immediate consideration to this most serious and difficult problem, one respecting which I for one have spoken on a number of occasions of the need of something being done to investigate this spread. Within a very few days an announcement will be made in this regard, the matter having been decided some two or three weeks ago.

**GRAIN**REQUEST FOR ADVANCE PAYMENTS ON  
FARM-STORED GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. William Bryce (Selkirk):** I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. When can prairie farmers expect to receive advance payments on grain stored on farm?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the hon. member's interest in this subject. Just as soon as the house is prepared to consider the legislation indicated in the speech from the throne we will proceed with the matter, and I hope the legislation will meet with his approval.

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR INTERIM PAYMENT ON  
1956-57 CROP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. As a further means of alleviating the extremely critical cash shortage on the prairies today to which the Prime Minister has referred, will the minister be able to announce shortly an interim payment on the 1956-57 wheat crop? Is the government considering the request of the wheat pools that an advance payment be made at this time?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. May I say that the matter will be taken under consideration.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE**

## ASIATIC FLU—STEPS TO PREVENT SPREAD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. L. Houck (Niagara Falls):** May I ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare what I think is a very important question. Indeed, it is of importance to all members of the house as well as the people of the country generally. Before doing so, may I be allowed to congratulate him upon his elevation to a very important portfolio. This, Mr. Speaker, is my question. Has the government taken any further steps to prevent, if possible, the spread of the Asiatic flu germ which is causing so much inconvenience and distress to all the people of the dominion?

**Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, first may I express my appreciation to the hon. member for his kind words concerning my elevation to the cabinet. May I also thank the hon. member for having given me notice a short time ago of his intention to ask this question.

With vaccine being produced in increasing quantities, provincial programs of vaccination are now under way. However, due to the early arrival of influenza in epidemic proportions in some provinces and the expectation that it might subside in a matter of a few weeks, most provinces have indicated their reluctance to make any commitment for vaccine beyond November 15.

In addition to meeting the requirements of the federal-provincial immunization program it has been possible, through the co-operation of the laboratories and the two senior levels of government, to provide facilities for the production of increasingly large quantities of vaccine which will be made available through the usual channels to the medical profession for protection of those not included in provincial programs.

**IMMIGRATION**

## INQUIRY AS TO ENTRY OF WAR CRIMINALS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** As a prelude to my normal sessional curiosity I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Since no person with a criminal record can legally enter Canada, does this prohibition apply to war criminals?