

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the meeting might provide an opportunity for them to place before the government the views which they hold respecting the bill which would provide for an additional diversion of water from lake Michigan at Chicago.

I listened to the expression of their views and we had a very interesting talk together, but I may say without any equivocation that I was unable to offer them any hope that as a result of the expression of their views the known opposition of the government of Canada to the bill would in any way be diminished.

That is clear enough, I think, to make it understandable to all that while I was very happy to meet with these gentlemen, their views did not alter the views expressed in the message to the acting secretary of state of the United States, sent by this government on April 9.

GRAIN

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO FINAL PAYMENT ON
1957-58 CROP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Albert Horner (The Battlefords): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister now in a position to advise this house when the final payment will be made on the 1957-58 wheat crop?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I find that our members from Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba are very keenly interested in this problem and continually ask me questions about it. I am pleased to answer this one in the house. I have talked to the Canadian wheat board with regard to this matter and have been advised that the 1957-58 wheat pool account will be closed during the course of the next few weeks, and the house will be advised immediately the pool is closed and of the amount of the final payment.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

RUSSIA—INQUIRY AS TO PRODUCTION OF LONG
RANGE JET BOMBER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Does the Soviet union have a long range jet bomber known by the code name "Bounder"?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have seen press reports referring to an aircraft supposed to be under development in the U.S.S.R. and going by that code name.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister believe from the most recent intelligence reports that this airplane is actually under manufacture at the present time by the Soviet union?

Mr. Pearkes: Mr. Speaker, surely the hon. member is not so naive as to expect me to confirm or deny such a press report from intelligence reports received by the Department of National Defence.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, perhaps a further supplementary question. Does the minister credit the statements of high ranking officers of the United States air force, who say there is such an aircraft and that it is in fact under production at present?

Mr. Pearkes: I have no further comment to make.

REPORTED STATEMENT OF U.S. AIR FORCE GENERAL

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, may I direct another question to the Minister of National Defence, notice of which I have given him. Will the minister comment on an article which appeared in last night's Ottawa Citizen reporting United States air force General Curtis E. LeMay as stating that the U.S.A.F. is clinging to manned bombers and fighters for a common sense reason because, and I quote, "Our ballistic missiles have not yet demonstrated the type of reliability or accuracy which is required to ensure the most effective use of the relatively small yield warheads which they carry"?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the article to which reference was made, which alleged that certain statements were made by the United States air force officer, General Curtis E. LeMay. I do not think it would be at all appropriate for me to make any comment on an alleged statement made outside this country by an officer of a foreign service concerning equipment which is maintained as part of the weapon inventory of that country.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that our defence policy, as announced by the Prime Minister, is now so closely integrated with that of the United States, will the minister get a copy of General LeMay's speech and peruse it before his estimates are brought before the house in order that we may be able to discuss the relative implications of the statement?

Mr. Pearkes: Mr. Speaker, Canada has no bombers, and while I may be shown a copy of the speech, or may be able to obtain a copy, I have no intention of making comments, as I said before, on a speech made