

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

## TRADE

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO PROMOTION  
OF FURTHER SALES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. The report he gave us is very encouraging, but what the farmers really want to know is whether they can eventually get any of their grain to the markets of the world.

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, that is relatively easy to answer, because eventually they will. I imagine they are a little more concerned than that. What they would like is to have their wheat moved to the markets of the world as quickly as possible. While I was in Europe I did take the opportunity to speak to all the wheat purchasing agencies concerned and was glad to have confirmed that Canadian wheat is held in high regard for blending purposes by all these countries. I think hon. members can assume that these countries will continue to take our wheat at the normal levels.

**Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Will the recent sale of wheat by France to mainland China have the effect of reducing the sale of Canadian wheat to that country?

**Mr. Winters:** I would not think so, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can he now follow the suggestion I made earlier in the day, that he outline to the house whether he was able to develop any new markets for Canadian wheat or extend any existing markets?

**Mr. Winters:** Mr. Speaker, negotiations of this kind take some time, but I think it is fair to say that as a result of the visit I made Canadian wheat will be sold in some of the countries I visited.

**Mr. Hees:** I take it the minister really has no concrete idea as to whether we will be able to make any important move to build up

our wheat sales in order to correct the situation that has developed this year as a result of the serious decline in wheat sales?

**Mr. Winters:** That is not correct, Mr. Speaker. I have some concrete ideas, and in due course I hope to be able to inform the house about some of them.

PROPOSED PREFERENTIAL POLICY FOR  
DEVELOPING NATIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. R. Keays (Gaspé):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Earlier today he referred to temporary trade preferences for the developing nations. Would the minister say whether Canada intends to adopt or propose a policy at the UNCTAD meeting in February promoting preferential buying from the developing nations, as was recommended at the NATO conference?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, we will not be proposing such a program. We will be supporting a program along the lines I advocated in the remarks I made at GATT; that is, a preferential program on a temporary and non-discriminatory basis so the weight will be borne by all developed countries. I made one or two other reservations. We will approach it in a spirit of harmony, and if preferences are the wish of all or the majority of the participating countries, Canada will go along.

SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT BY CHINA  
OF CANADIAN OFFICE

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, my question is on a related matter and is directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It is based on a very interesting section of the minister's speech to the GATT conference in which he said:

There are opportunities to make further progress on a pragmatic basis with individual countries.

Does this mean that the government now intends to make an offer or invitation to the republic of China on the mainland for the setting up of a trading office to facilitate the sale of goods to this country?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mainland China is a very valued trading partner. Members of the wheat