

Inquiries of the Ministry

in payment for certain Canadian commodities which he hopes to sell to the Chinese communist government. He promised he would give me an answer, and perhaps he is now able to do so.

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately detained yesterday or I would have given the answer to the hon. gentleman then. This question is based on a radio report to which the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart was listening. There is no change in policy envisaged here at all. The Canadian government does not prevent private exporters from accepting payment in any currency for their Canadian products. That is a matter for the private exporter and the trade commissioner dealing with any Canadian businessman who wishes to engage in such business.

As a matter of practice Canadian exporters normally wish to receive payment in Canadian dollars or currencies which are readily exchangeable into Canadian dollars for obvious reasons, since such exporters must make their payments in Canadian dollars. This is doubtless the point which the Canadian trade commissioner had in mind, and I think it is perhaps what the hon. member is asking about. I have, however, no information as to the exact words used by the Canadian trade commissioner.

Mr. Coldwell: Then may I ask with respect to the Canadian wheat board, which is in a different category from the people who arrange trade with communist China. The wheat board will not accept sterling but apparently some traders who deal with the government in China will accept sterling.

Mr. Churchill: Well, the practice of the wheat board has been the normal practice of accepting payment in dollars.

Mr. Coldwell: Why not accept sterling?

Mr. Churchill: If sterling is readily and immediately convertible, that is the same thing.

Mr. Coldwell: All sterling is convertible except blocked sterling.

PORK—STATEMENT AS TO ALLEGED REPACKING OF U.S. IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Charlton (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Peace River asked the following question:

Certain news reports were circulating this morning to the effect that United States pork products have been brought into Canada during recent weeks, repackaged or relabelled and sold as Cana-

[Mr. Coldwell.]

dian pork products. I want to ask the acting minister or his parliamentary assistant if he would make inquiries to ascertain whether these reports are true, and if so what the government proposes to do to stop such a practice.

I have the information here. Imports of United States pork and pork products into Canada in the first six months of 1957 totalled 160,548 pounds. In the same period 16,377,978 pounds of Canadian pork and pork products were exported to the United States.

In both Canada and the United States it is required that imported meats and meats moving in interprovincial or interstate trade must bear an appropriate legend to show that the meat has been inspected and passed for health. Any United States meat entering Canada must bear the health inspection legend of the United States, and any Canadian meat entering the United States must bear the Canadian health inspection legend. When United States meat enters Canada fully processed in consumer packages it is not permitted to be repacked under the Canadian inspection legend.

When United States meats are processed in Canada the Canadian inspection legend is applied to the finished product, and when Canadian meats are processed in the United States the United States inspection legend is applied to the finished product. An example of this would be sides of bacon, going either from Canada to the United States or coming from the United States into Canada, and sliced and packaged into consumer packages in the country of destination. The domestic inspection legend is applied in such instances because the original inspection legend is destroyed in the processing, and because the processing necessitates the reinspection of the product by the veterinary inspection service of the country of destination.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

MONCTON—STATEMENT ON REPORTED DISMANTLING AND SCRAPPING OF MACHINERY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George H. Hees (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to answer several questions which have been taken as notice for me in the last few days.

The hon. member for Westmorland (Mr. Murphy) asked the following question yesterday:

Has the minister received representations from the Canadian national war veterans association of Moncton or other organizations, protesting the dismantling and scrapping of thousands of dollars of very valuable machinery in the Canadian National shops in Moncton? If so, what action does he propose to take?