

from Geneva where he was engaged in the renegotiation of the international wheat agreement. Can the house be informed what progress has been made in increasing the price of wheat?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Trade and Commerce and several other colleagues are out of the house at the moment on matters that are of importance. This is why they had to leave. We have had a long question period and they had to keep a very important appointment. The Minister of Trade and Commerce will deal with this question tomorrow, and I think my hon. friend may be very happy with the very able way in which the minister carried out his assignment in Europe the other day.

### BANKRUPTCY

#### REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION BY ROYAL COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Justice. It is a question of great concern to many people and is of national importance. In view of the growing fraudulent bankruptcy racket in Canada and the statement made by Commissioner McClellan of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that the underworld is on the verge of controlling all sections of our economy, has the government given consideration to the request made by the Canadian Lumbermen's Association and other organizations for a royal commission to investigate all aspects of bankruptcy in Canada?

[Translation]

**Hon. Guy Favreau (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, that question concerns my department and notice of it was referred to me by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General (Mr. Cardin).

Without necessarily accepting to its full extent the assertion made in the first part of the question, I must say that all representations, all recommendations are under constant study by the minister as well as by his officials and special advisers.

In that respect, I must remind the house that a three-member committee has been appointed and that it is now carrying out an active study of the economic, social and legal aspects of the Bankruptcy Act.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

I am confident that as soon as I get that report I will be in a position to make all the recommendations I deem appropriate or to refer all committee recommendations, if I feel that is necessary.

[English]

### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister. It is a question of grave national importance. Could the Acting Prime Minister tell the house whether the appointment of a governor general will await the return from western Canada of the president of the Quebec Liberal Federation, who is already reported as saying that Canadians should begin questioning the usefulness of the post of governor general and has promised to enlarge on that thesis during his western tour?

### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### RAILWAY DISPUTE—APPOINTMENT OF ARBITRATION BOARD

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. John M. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister in a position to announce when the board of arbitration will be set up to deal with the two groups of striking railway employees?

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** I cannot announce anything definite today, Mr. Speaker. I can state, however, that the work on the regulations is well advanced and, as I have already advised the bargaining committee of some of the railway unions concerned, I hope to announce appointment of the board of arbitrators and table the required regulations on or about Monday next, certainly not later than Tuesday.

### NATIONAL DEFENCE

#### HALIFAX—REQUEST OF DOCKYARD COUNCIL RESPECTING PAY RATES

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of National Defence, or if he is unable to answer it perhaps it might better be directed to the President of the Treasury Board. In any event, I should like to ask either of them