

Inquiries of the Ministry

that has been occasioned fishing gear and equipment in southwest Nova Scotia owing to the severe storms that took place this week, with winds reported as high as eighty miles an hour lashing the coast? If he is aware, is he prepared to order an immediate investigation by officials of his department to ascertain the extent of this damage, and consider what means may be adopted to assist the fishermen who have had such severe financial losses?

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught (Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Fisheries): I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me notice of his question. The Department of Fisheries is aware that there were severe storms in southwest Nova Scotia, but no reports have been received concerning the extent of damage that may have been done.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE GARDEN**GRANT FOR DEVELOPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): My question to the Minister of Resources and Development arises out of an answer which he gave to a question of mine appearing in *Hansard* for Wednesday, December 19, 1951, at page 2190. Will reconsideration be given to the matter of continuing the \$15,000 grant to the international peace garden? I should like to ask the minister if it is not possible, in view of the large sums we are spending on defence, to continue paying these few dollars in support of a project dedicated to peace.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): Mr. Speaker, I think the answer in *Hansard* was as full as one could give. These matters always receive the consideration of the government when consideration is required.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. As reported in *Hansard* of December 19 at page 2190, in reply to a question by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) concerning this peace garden project to which there has been some reference this morning, the Minister of Resources and Development intimated that certain members of the house had already made representation. I should like to indicate that, along with the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Ross), some weeks ago I approached the minister on this matter. As is well known to

the members of this house, the peace garden project was one of the major interests of my predecessor in this house, the late Mr. J. E. Matthews.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: This matter is not one of privilege. Unless the hon. member is allowed to make a brief statement—

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Then I am afraid I cannot allow the hon. member to continue.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Resources and Development): As to that particular question, Mr. Speaker, I think it only fair to say that I was also approached by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson), by our party whip, the hon. member for Portage-Neepawa (Mr. Weir), by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Ward) and by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Winkler).

Mr. Mutch: Look around this way too.

Mr. Winters: In fact, I think it is safe to say that I have been approached by virtually every member from the province of Manitoba.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY**QUESTION AS TO SUPPLYING FREE WHEAT AND ALUMINUM**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the stage of the session which we have reached, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs in relation to an article which appears in the December 22 issue of the *Financial Post*. This very responsible publication makes the positive statement that requests by NATO nations that Canada supply them with economic aid in the form of free Canadian wheat and aluminum promise to become a highly controversial issue. Then it goes on to say that thus far Canada has given a flat rejection.

I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs if he is in a position to inform the house concerning this matter, especially in view of the fact that other governments have already dealt with subjects arising out of the discussions relating to this very problem. It would seem that we should have some information about our position before we terminate this session.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): In regard to that matter I can only say this at this time: No report has yet been received by the government from