

*Inquiries of the Ministry***UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****QUEBEC—REPORTED DISQUALIFICATION OF
BUSH WORKERS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bona Arsenault (Bonaventure): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Considering the fact that some 2,000 bush workers in eastern parts of Quebec, about 400 of whom are domiciled in Bonaventure county, have in recent months been disqualified from their unemployment insurance benefits on the ground that they had failed to apply for positions offered by the Quebec North Shore Company at Lake Ste. Anne in northern Quebec; and having excellent reasons to believe that in a great number of cases—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Arsenault:—such positions offered to these men, especially during the month of March, were not suitable, in accordance with section 59 of the Unemployment Insurance Act would the minister authorize a complete investigation into this matter by an independent and reliable body, in the hope that all our bush workers who have suffered injustices may be reinstated in their right to unemployment insurance benefits?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, while I cannot commit myself as to the method, I can assure my hon. friend that the complaints he has made will be fully investigated.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**INQUIRIES AS TO VISITS BY PRESIDENTS OF
FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is in a position to say whether Canada is to be honoured by a visit from the President of France in the next few weeks. Is he in a position to say whether that welcome event is about to take place?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when we heard that the President of France was likely to be visiting North America shortly, an invitation was renewed to him to visit Canada. The answer was received that while he was very anxious to visit Canada he could not arrange to make a visit at the time he was visiting the United States, since he had a long-standing engagement for an official visit to, I believe, Luxembourg which had already had to be postponed once and he felt should not be postponed again. However, the President

[Mr. McCann.]

of France did expect he would be able to make a special trip to Canada before long.

Mr. Donald M. Fleming (Eglinton): Some time ago I asked the Prime Minister a similar question with regard to the possibility of a visit by President Heuss of West Germany. The Prime Minister at that time indicated that there was a possibility that Dr. Heuss might be visiting Canada. I wonder if he could add anything to that statement.

Mr. St. Laurent (Quebec East): No, Mr. Speaker, there have been no definite arrangements made although, of course, a very cordial invitation has been extended to the President of West Germany; and my recollection of the hospitality he extended to me is such that I would be very happy to see similar hospitality extended to that honourable gentleman in Canada.

TRADE**POLAND—REPORTED SALE OF ADDITIONAL WHEAT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. Nicholson (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I wonder if he could comment on the report carried in the *Leader-Post* the other day to the effect that Poland wished to buy another 6 million bushels of wheat. Would the minister indicate whether or not that report was correct?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The wheat board has booked a purchase of 300,000 tons of wheat for Poland to move out before July 31, and also has made a commitment for half of that amount of wheat to be exported in 1957-1958.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, as I recall it the report indicated that this was in addition to the amount the minister mentioned previously in the house. Could he comment on that point?

Mr. Howe (Port Arthur): I mentioned before that the wheat board was negotiating for the sale of 150,000 tons of wheat to Poland from the 1956-1957 crop and another 150,000 from the 1957-1958 crop. The situation is that the quantity for 1956-1957 has now been doubled, and that the wheat for the 1956-1957 crop has actually been booked with the wheat board.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Robinson (Simcoe East) in the chair.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Mr. Harris moved:

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$1,651,674,050, being one-half of the total of the amounts of the items set forth in the main estimates for the fiscal