

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada.

When the President of the Privy Council declared in Toronto that the Americans should stop bombing North Viet Nam, did he not at that time also intend to ask the communist Chinese to stop bombing South Viet Nam?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question is argumentative.

[English]

[Later:]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the United States officially or unofficially, verbally or in writing brought to the attention of the government as yet the speech of the President of the Privy Council? Has there been any communication at all in this regard? Mr. Butterworth usually butts in on everything. Has he not been in on this?

Mr. Winters: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker; but to assure the hon. gentleman beyond doubt I will have to take the question as notice.

INQUIRY AS TO RECOGNITION OF
COMMUNIST CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of recent statements by some members of the cabinet is an announcement regarding recognition of red China imminent?

Hon. Robert Winters (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can add nothing to what has already been said so clearly in this house by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

[Later:]

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Does the government consider the confusion caused by the various statements of ministers of the crown regarding foreign policy an enhancement of Canada's image abroad?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows this question is not in order.

[Mr. Speaker.]

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS
RESPECTING INTERNATIONAL
WHEAT AGREEMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce with regard to the stories which have been circulating in the press and over the radio to the effect that there is to be an increase in the price range under the international wheat agreement of some 22 cents a bushel. Is the minister in a position to give us any information concerning how the negotiations are proceeding and what the price range is likely to be under the new international wheat agreement?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped I would be able to make a statement on orders of the day, but negotiations still are going on in Geneva. I am hopeful that later this day I will be able to ask hon. members for permission to revert to motions so I may make a full statement. However, with your tolerance, Mr. Speaker, and that of members of the house, I should like to answer this question so far as I am able to do so now.

A great measure of agreement has been reached on the main issues under discussion relative to the GATT agreements. But, as all hon. members know, it is not always the main issues which determine whether a contract can be agreed to. There still are a number of details to be worked out with respect to cereals and, until they are, one cannot be certain there will be an over-all agreement. On this point, however, I remain confident.

In the light of the fact that figures have been used so widely in the press this morning I think it would be well to clarify them in Canadian terms. It has been suggested that what is being agreed to in Geneva is \$1.73 per bushel for No. 2 hard winter wheat at a gulf port, and that there would be a differential between No. 2 hard winter wheat and No. 1 Manitoba northern of some 22½ cents a bushel. This would be a significant and welcome increase in the international minimum and maximum prices of specified qualities of wheat and would substantially strengthen arrangements for co-operation to maintain market stability for No. 1 Manitoba northern in store at the lakehead.

New maximum and minimum prices on this basis would be \$1.95½ and \$2.38½ Canadian respectively. This would represent a 21 cent increase over maximum and minimum prices