

*Inquiries of the Ministry*CLOSING OF OATS, BARLEY AND WHEAT
POOL ACCOUNTS

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No; I do not propose to make such a statement but I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs might consider one.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the umbrella agreement signed between France and the federal government is still in effect, and is it the government's intention to renew that agreement?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I know the umbrella is still open, but I do not know whether there is any terminal date to it. I am sure the Secretary of State for External Affairs would be delighted to consider such questions.

[Translation]

THE SENATE

POSSIBILITY OF APPOINTMENT OF
MISS LAMARSH

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

As there were many vacancies in the Senate lately, and as there is an additional one due to the death, yesterday, of the hon. Wallace McCutcheon, would the Prime Minister consider appointing shortly Miss Judy LaMarsh, former Secretary of State, to the gilded cage of the Senate?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRAIN

VANCOUVER, B.C.—EMPTY SHIPS LEAVING
PORT

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Economic Affairs whether he is in a position today to reply to the question raised yesterday, and indicate whether in fact empty ships are leaving Vancouver harbour?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and the information provided by the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) was accurate. One vessel has sailed without a cargo, with arrangements having been made for later shipment of the grain. Similar arrangements are being discussed concerning the second vessel.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I might use this occasion to say I have been informed by the Canadian Wheat Board that it is their intention to close the 1967 oats, barley and wheat pool accounts on the following dates: Oats, January 31; barley, February 14 and—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, this is not the time for statements like this. If the minister wants to make it, he should revert to motions.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to answer questions that were raised in the house last week but if I am not allowed to do so—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is not a reply to the question asked. It is a smokescreen.

[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO FORMULATION OF CHARTER

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs stated on Monday, December 9, that he favoured the drawing up by his department of a charter of the rights of the consumers, could the Prime Minister tell us if such a charter will be presented together with the charter of human rights or if both will be merged into a single one?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, there is no question of merging the charters. The question of the economic rights of man will be dealt with when the federal government brief is considered and we shall then explain why this aspect of the rights of the citizen must not be considered together with the one that deals with political and legal rights.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

I wish to thank the Prime Minister for his answer, and I would like him to clarify it so as to tell us if there will be two different charters or if they will be merged into a single one. Could he dwell a little more on that matter?