

Inquiries of the Ministry

communist bloc countries who are not signatories to the international world wheat agreement in order that the new agreement may become effective?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, officials of the wheat board have visited Russia, as well as participating countries, and there are no grounds for the pessimism reportedly expressed in the article.

Mr. Southam: A supplementary or related question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say what progress is being made toward setting up an international wheat council in London to take the place of the council that lapsed with the last international agreement?

Mr. Winters: There was a discussion last week. I understand they got along well and everything is moving in the direction of implementation. One cannot take it for a certainty because there are so many nations involved, but the proceedings are going well.

DURUM WHEAT—PROSPECTS FOR
EXPORT SALES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. D. McLelland (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister inform the house what the present situation is regarding quota regulations on Durum wheat and the sales prospects for the rest of this year?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I anticipated this question and I am prepared for it. Sales of Durum wheat have been relatively good. For several weeks now the delivery quota on Durum wheat has been open and sales have been made as this type of wheat arrives at terminal positions. The wheat board informs us there will be relatively little left on farms at the end of the crop year. The market for Durum wheat next year, like this year, will be around 20 to 25 million bushels.

CROWN ASSETS

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS
GOVERNMENT MATERIAL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the [Mr. Southam.]

Prime Minister. Has any one minister been given special authority for the disposal of surplus government material or does the minister of each department necessarily have to dispose of surplus assets through Crown Assets Disposal Corporation?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the minister concerned dealt with that last night. There is a recognized procedure in connection with this matter under the responsibility of a minister.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I have a supplementary question. Will the Prime Minister outline for the benefit of members the procedure that one minister has to follow and which is directed to other ministers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, I doubt that this question is in order.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The answer given by the Prime Minister is definitely not in order if the question is out of order.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid I cannot rule on that point.

[Later:]

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Can surplus assets within the Department of Defence Production be sold directly by the minister or his department?

Mr. Pearson: The minister is in his seat, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps my hon. friend would direct his question to him.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): Mr. Speaker, quite often you have decided that when we wish to ask questions of policy we should direct them to the Prime Minister. We have often received that advice. Surely the Prime Minister knows what the law is. I asked him a simple yes or no question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): On a point of order, I directed this question to the Prime Minister's attention because I cannot get an honest answer from the Minister of Defence Production.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.