

Inquiries of the Ministry

State for External Affairs. It deals with the cohesion of NATO and the headline is as follows:

But official of organization—

That is, Lord Ismay.

—fears forces not strong enough to hurl back all-out enemy attack.

What I wish to know is whether the members of NATO were consulted by Lord Ismay before such a statement was made and, if so, or if not, will Canada notify Lord Ismay to be more cautious in the future, and not to destroy the morale of the people who belong to the nations which are members of NATO.

Mr. Roch Pinard (Parliamentary Assistant to the Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I should leave completely unanswered what has been said by the hon. member for Temiscouata. He is generally quite categorical in his observations, but I do not think on this occasion I can follow his example. I think he would expect me to decline to answer his observations. However, I shall discuss the matter with officials in the department and see whether an answer can be given later concerning the observations of Lord Ismay.

Mr. Pouliot: Thank you.

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASED PLEDGE IN
SUPPORT OF NATO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question which the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) may answer either now, or later when we resume after the Christmas recess. Has Canada pledged any increase in its NATO contribution for the coming year? If so, would he tell us the extent of the pledge.

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Canada has not pledged any increase in amount. There may be some change in the manner in which the amount is applied to the build-up of the NATO force; but there has been no increase in Canada's over-all commitment.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PARIS MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question, and preface it by saying that I realize the Prime Minister may not wish to answer it immediately. But having regard to the fact that these questions have been asked and that, in effect, they relate to a single topic of this over-all problem, does

[Mr. Pouliot.]

the Prime Minister feel that he is in a position to place a report before the house as to the progress that has been achieved at Paris in the present meeting?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): No, I am not. I have not had any report of the results of the deliberations which took place yesterday and the day before.

CANADA GRAIN ACT

REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Can the minister say whether the committee on agriculture and colonization will be called together early in the new year in order to review the Canada Grain Act, as recommended by that committee at the last session of the house? As the minister is aware, it would be called for the purpose of discussing the question of overages and box car distribution.

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): My hon. friend is aware that it is not the duty of any minister to call committees together. As a member of the committee in question, my hon. friend is in a position to do so. I have no amendments to the Canada Grain Act to recommend. There will be later in the session matters that I will wish to refer to the committee; but the subject matter of its business, I assume, will be determined by the committee.

Mr. Argue: May I ask a supplementary question? Has the minister any objection to the government's carrying out the committee's recommendation, that the Canada Grain Act be referred to the committee on agriculture for study?

Mr. Howe: I have nothing to do with the matter. If the committee meets and desires to undertake that work, I shall endeavour to co-operate. But I have no wish either that it should be done or should not be done.

Mr. Argue: Whisper a few words to the boys on your side.

CANCER

RESEARCH INTO RELATION BETWEEN SMOKING
AND LUNG CANCER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of National Health