

Inquiries of the Ministry

give eastern Canada elevators for feed grain? If such were the case, could the minister tell us how far those investigations and studies have progressed?

Hon. Rene Tremblay (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, officials of the Department of Agriculture are constantly reviewing the needs of eastern Canada in matters of feed grain, and whatever measure the government will be taking will be announced by the Minister of Agriculture.

REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF COLD STORAGE SUBVENTION

On the orders of the day:

[Text]

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wonder if in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture I could direct a question to the Prime Minister. Earlier today I received a reply to a written question indicating that the subsidies under the Cold Storage Act were suspended in July, 1962 because of the austerity program then in effect. Is it the intention of this government to reinstate those subventions under the Cold Storage Act, especially as they apply to fisheries products?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I shall be glad to look into the matter. I am sorry the minister is not here, but he is laid up with the flu.

SHIPPING

REMOVAL OF WRECK FROM ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. L. J. Pigeon (Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport of which I gave him notice. Does his department intend to pay the costs of refloating the *Tritonica* wreck which may impede winter navigation on the St. Lawrence?

[Text]

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the notice of the question is somewhat different from what I heard. I take it the hon. member was inquiring about the removal of the *Tritonica*, not who would pay the cost. Responsibility for removal lies with the owner, managing owner, master or person in charge of the vessel at the time of the wreck. The owners and their agents and also the owners of the *Roonagh Head* were notified by letter of July 25 that the wreck was considered a menace to navigation and must be removed. In their reply of July 29 the owners of the *Tritonica* advised that tenders for the removal were due on August 3.

No contract has been awarded to date due to disagreement on the extent of the removal to be undertaken. The Department of Transport requests that the vessel be completely removed, and so far the owner has not signified acceptance of this. If the owner fails to complete arrangements for removal as required by the department within a reasonable time, the federal government will call tenders and see that the work is done.

An attempt is being made to have the removal take place at the earliest possible date. However, in view of some questions asked the other day on this point perhaps I should add that it is probable that the removal cannot be undertaken until spring, due to the lateness of the season and the prevalence of heavy fields of floating ice during the winter months.

UNITED NATIONS

SOUTHERN RHODESIA—RESOLUTION RESPECTING ARMS SHIPMENTS BY GREAT BRITAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Did the Canadian delegation abstain on the vote which was taken at the United Nations requesting Great Britain to stop all shipments of arms to Southern Rhodesia until that country has a representative government? If the Canadian delegation did abstain, did they do so on the instructions of the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in answering my hon. friend I would say that the action taken by the Canadian delegation, which of course was on instructions from the government, was predicated on the fact that the British government is engaged in difficult and complicated negotiations to bring about the dissolution of the federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland by December 31. It has been the policy of the government and of the preceding government not to support proposals advanced at the United Nations which will impede these negotiations.

The Canadian government is concerned that the political future of Southern Rhodesia after the dissolution of the federation should be decided by negotiation and agreement between the African and the white population. The government is aware of the fact that the British government is exerting its influence in that direction. The Canadian delegation abstained on the resolution in question which passed in the committee on October 18. The resolution criticized the United Kingdom and urged the imposition of a solution in Southern Rhodesia.