

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Hellyer: No evidence that has come to light yet would indicate any reason to believe that the answer I gave was less than the correct one. Since that time we have had a senior officer go to Europe to see whether there is available there any additional evidence which was not to hand at the time my reply was given. In the event that any evidence comes to light which would alter in any way the validity of the statement I gave to the house, I shall be pleased to bring it to the attention of the house.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Will the minister say whether he is reported correctly in the *Toronto Star* of today that he instructed the legal branch of the Canadian army to make further inquiries? I ask him also whether Majors Mace and Pierce have been communicated with and statements secured from them?

Mr. Hellyer: I have not seen this article, but I will be glad to take that part of the question as notice along with the rest.

TRADE**WHEAT—MAINTENANCE OF DELIVERIES UNDER RUSSIAN CONTRACT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. E. Pascoe (Moose Jaw-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce who first announced the latest Russian wheat deal. Does the Russian contract call for delivery of low grade wheat, and will the high quality of this year's prairie wheat crop have any effect on these deliveries?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think this question should be more appropriately directed to the Minister of Finance as he is responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, but I will take the question as notice and answer it later.

Mr. Pascoe: It is a very serious question, Mr. Speaker, because most of this year's crop is grading No. 1 and No. 2 Northern.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked a question and the Minister of Trade and Commerce—the Minister of Finance is not in the house at the moment—has said he has taken notice of the question.

Mr. Pascoe: I just want to direct his attention to the fact that it is a very urgent question and calls for an early reply.

Mr. Speaker: The fact that the question has been allowed is proof that it is an urgent matter.

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**RICHIBUCTO, N.B.—DEFENCE OF INDIANS CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL FISHING**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to orders of the day I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On Friday last I posed a question to the minister about making available a transcript of the evidence relating to two gentlemen, Mr. White and Mr. Bob, of Nanaimo who were involved in a very celebrated case. The minister said he would have to look at the question. I wonder whether he has an answer now?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have indicated to the Indian people that we will support their employment of lawyers to defend them. When we do that we want to win the case and we shall be glad to put in their hands whatever evidence is available in preceding cases before they go to court.

● (5:30 p.m.)

HEALTH AND WELFARE**MEDICARE—AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD COST OF INSURED MEDICAL CARE**

The house resumed from Thursday, October 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. MacEachen for the second reading of Bill No. C-227, to authorize the payment of contributions by Canada toward the cost of insured medical care services incurred by provinces pursuant to provincial medical care insurance plans.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. F. J. Bigg (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that medical care cannot be put into effect for another two years I think that every opportunity should be taken to debate this matter before the house as thoroughly as is possible so as to ensure the full effectiveness of this bill. It is obvious that there is a widespread consensus in Canada in favour of medical care, and here I make a distinction between "medical care" and "medicare", which in some quarters at least has a connotation which we do not unambiguously accept. Personally I believe in medical care, and because medicine has been, and I presume always will be, under the jurisdiction of the provinces, I feel it is my duty to