

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and Corporate Affairs. At that time the parliamentary secretary took them as notice. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to answer them now? The first question was as follows:

In view of the importance of protecting Canada's good name abroad, what action is the minister considering to investigate the financial situation in British Columbia of Commonwealth Trust Company and its associated companies?

And this was the second question:

Has this matter been discussed with the premier of British Columbia?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Three of the companies in what is known as the Commonwealth group have become bankrupt, thereby falling within the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Act and of my department. They are: Commonwealth Savings Plan Limited; Commonwealth Acceptance Corporation Limited; and Commonwealth Investors Syndicate Limited.

A meeting of creditors of Commonwealth Savings Plan Limited was held in Vancouver on Monday last to affirm the appointment of a trustee, to appoint inspectors and to give the trustee instructions in connection with the liquidation of the assets. Meetings of creditors of the other two companies will be arranged as soon as possible.

Some two weeks ago, I met personally with the Official Receiver in Vancouver, who is an officer of my department. These bankruptcies are receiving the close attention of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy, and should he have any reason to suspect that any offences have been committed either under the Bankruptcy Act or under any statute, the situation will be thoroughly investigated. I am sorry to take so long, Mr. Speaker, but this is an important matter. There have also been discussions between officials of the provincial government of British Columbia and officials of the Department of Finance with regard to the Canadian deposit insurance scheme, any questions about which should be directed to the Minister of Finance.

As to the second question, whether I have discussed this matter with the premier of British Columbia, the answer is, no.

**GRAIN**

UNITED ACTION OF CANADA AND U.S.  
AT I.G.A. MEETING

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of his meetings with the President of the United States and having to do with wheat sales and our trading picture generally.

Would the right hon. gentleman say that, as a result of the talks, the United States and Canada are prepared to present a united front at the April meeting to discuss the maintaining of the International Grains Arrangement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. We did reach agreement to seek respect for the International Grains Arrangement in every way possible, and we agreed to ask whatever friends we have to take this position, too. We want to work as far as at all possible within the framework of that agreement. The Prime Minister of Australia will be in the United States next week and he will also be coming to Canada; both the president and myself intend to bend his ear on this subject.

**Mr. Horner:** We can assume, then, that the positions taken by this government and by the United States government at this April meeting will be identical?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[Later:]

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Since the United States is a signatory to the International Grains Arrangement may I ask the Prime Minister whether the President of the United States indicated to him that the United States would immediately adhere to the conditions set out in that agreement and decline to sell at prices below those set out therein.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Obviously, one cannot answer yes or no to a question of that kind. Perhaps, I should say that it would be unreasonable to ask the United States to adhere to the terms of an agreement, when we ourselves have said we would not do so. The hon. member is aware of the situation in which other countries began to break the letter and the spirit of that agreement, thus obliging nations such as ourselves to follow suit in order to preserve our competitive position. It is this whole problem that the President discussed with me, and which we indicated we would try to solve within the framework of the International Grains Arrangement.

**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

MEDICARE—EFFECT OF PARTICIPATION  
BY MANITOBA

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** I have a question for the Minister of National Health