

Inquiries of the Ministry

GRAIN

WHEAT—INQUIRY AS TO ADDITIONAL
QUANTITIES TO INDIA

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture or the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is Canada at this time doing anything to provide additional quantities of wheat for India, in the light of the reported discussions now going on between the United States and India with the object of making additional quantities of wheat available under public law 480?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, any arrangements that may be made with India in the future will be duly announced here in the house. We are aware of their difficulties with regard to food supplies, and we are quite prepared at any time to discuss the problem with our fellow members of the commonwealth from India.

Mr. Argue: Well, Mr. Speaker, my question was this. Are any negotiations being entered into with India at the present time or have any negotiations been entered into with India to provide additional quantities of wheat for that country, or does this government do nothing but protest to the United States?

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend seems to want to make a speech on the subject.

An hon. Member: You make one.

Mr. Churchill: I will be very happy to make a speech if you want to listen to me.

Mr. Pickersgill: Listen to him.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): Make a remarkable one.

Mr. Lesage: A first class one.

Mr. Churchill: We have had conversations with the representatives of India with regard to the supply of wheat to that country.

Mr. Argue: With regard to the supply of additional quantities of wheat?

Mr. Churchill: Yes, with regard to the supply of additional quantities of wheat.

WHEAT—PRICE OF SALES TO MILLERS IN PRAIRIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. A. Tucker (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is he yet prepared to give an answer to the question I directed to him a week ago and the supplementary

questions the next day, with regard to the price at which wheat is sold to millers on the prairies?

Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have ready a long answer to what was a rather long question. If it could be accepted as an order for return I should be glad to have it printed in *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[For answer referred to above, see appendix "A", pages 1098-99.]

FINANCE

BANK OF CANADA—DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH
GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. James Sinclair (Coast-Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Actually it is a repetition of a question he was asked last Monday in Oakville, which he refused to answer on the ground that he could not answer it outside the House of Commons. Since he is now inside the House of Commons I should like to ask him, has there been a clash of opinions between the Bank of Canada and the government on economic policy?

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance): I am not aware of anything that could be called a clash.

Mr. Sinclair: A supplementary question. Does that mean the Minister of Finance is now in accord with the policy of the Bank of Canada, which he called an unhappy legacy earlier this session?

Mr. Fleming: The expression "unhappy legacy" does not apply only to what the hon. gentleman has just mentioned. There are a good many things in the unhappy legacy to which that expression ought to apply. When the time comes to deal with any questions of policy in the house I can assure the hon. gentleman that they will be dealt with fully.

[Later:]

Mr. F. C. Christian (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Coast-Capilano. Would the Minister of Finance reveal to the house the nature, scope and result of his recent discussions with Mr. J. A. Coyne, governor of the Bank of Canada?

Mr. Sinclair: Now you can make a speech.