

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

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**Thursday, March 21, 1968**

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

[Translation]

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

#### TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

**Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the annual report of the Rural Development Branch for 1966-67.

[English]

### TRADE

#### APPROVAL OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT 1967

On the order: Government notices of motions:

March 19, 1968—Hon. Jean Marchand (for the Minister of Trade and Commerce)—The following proposed motion:—That the Houses of Parliament do approve the Wheat Trade Convention and the Food Aid Convention comprising the International Grains Arrangement 1967 scheduled to take effect July 1, 1968.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to section 2 of standing order 21 this government notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders.

### FINANCE

#### PURCHASE OF BOND ISSUE BY BANK OF CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Can the minister now answer my question of yesterday as to the amount of the current bond issue which was taken up by the Bank of Canada?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer as to the actual disposition of the bonds because the books have not yet been closed, but the Bank of Canada had agreed to acquire a minimum of \$85 million of these issues, open as to maturity.

[Translation]

#### INCREASE IN INTEREST RATES ON GOVERNMENT BONDS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Finance.

This morning, a newspaper carried an article on the new Canada government bond issue for \$175 million at rates of interest varying between 5½ per cent and 7.30 per cent.

Further on in the article, we are told that the new bonds are authorized under an act of the parliament of Canada. Can the hon. Minister of Finance tell us what act this is, when it was passed—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I suggest to the hon. member that it is out of order to put a question requiring an interpretation of an act.

[English]

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

#### MEDICARE—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the right hon. Prime Minister a question. Having regard to the statement of the Minister of Finance that prior to July 1 he is prepared to undertake discussions with the provinces regarding the implementation of medicare, I ask the Prime Minister whether the commitment he gave to the house on February 12, that medicare would commence on July 1 of this year, is binding upon the Liberal government irrespective of who may head the administration.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, there has been no change in that commitment.

**Mr. Douglas:** May I ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for a minister to remain in the cabinet when he is advocating policies which are diametrically opposed to the policy enunciated by the Prime Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.