

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE****RUSSIA—FURTHER WHEAT PURCHASES AND CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS REQUESTED**

On the orders of the day:

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** In the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce I should like to ask the Prime Minister if there is any foundation for the newspaper article to the effect that to all intents and purposes no immediate future purchases of wheat will be made by the U.S.S.R.; and whether it is a fact that the U.S.S.R. has asked Canada, should it desire to extend its trade in the U.S.S.R., for credit arrangements extending between 10 and 15 years.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** I will be discussing this matter with the minister on his return tomorrow, and perhaps he will be in a position to give an answer to the question. Of course he has already said in the house that there has been no definite information from the Soviet union as to whether they will or will not be importing more wheat from Canada.

So far as the latter part of the question is concerned, I have ascertained, as no doubt my right hon. friend has, that the Soviet union has been making statements of this kind to a good many governments in regard to providing credit terms.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Has the U.S.S.R. stated to Canada that it desires, indeed demands, credit arrangements of between 10 and 15 years in respect of any future trade?

**Mr. Pearson:** No, we have had no official demand or request of that kind from the U.S.S.R. in regard to credit terms.

**POSSIBLE IMPEDIMENTS TO FREE TRADE BETWEEN PROVINCES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of reports that the Manitoba government intends to bring in a program of special concessions to provincial manufacturers. In view of the impediment to free trade between provinces represented by this and other provincial programs, what action or plans does the government contemplate to deal with this and other similar programs being followed by various provinces?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not seen those reports. I shall be glad to look into them and see [Mr. Pearson.]

if any action or statement is required on our part.

**MINES AND TECHNICAL SURVEYS****WINTER BERTHING OF HYDROGRAPHIC SHIP "ACADIA"**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. W. M. Benidickson (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the minister from Pictou asked—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Benidickson:**—the hon. member for Pictou asked if I had received a communication from the board of trade of Pictou regarding the berthing of the Canadian hydrographic ship *Acadia*. I said, and it proved to be correct, that nothing of that kind had at that time come across my desk, although I had had representations the previous year. I find that late on Wednesday a communication was received from the board of trade of Pictou. I was away in Quebec city on Thursday, and my staff proceeded to make inquiries concerning plans for the berthing of this ship this winter.

I gave consideration to the representations that have been received from my hon. friend, from the Minister of Labour and others, and over the week end we have decided to continue the winter berthing of the *Acadia* at Pictou. It has been berthed at Pictou since 1945, although with the establishment of the oceanographic institute at Halifax there are some operational advantages in the ship being berthed in a port that provides a longer operational season. I assure my hon. friend, however, that the arrangement will not be disturbed this winter.

**AGRICULTURE****CAPITAL GRANTS TO CLASS A AND B FAIRS**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario):** I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has had any further meetings with the executives of class A and B fairs with regard to the capital grants that were frozen. Is it the intention of the government to continue the grants?

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the last of the pilot projects which were initiated this year on the prairies and at the Western fair in London have now been completed. We are assessing