

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

of the Prime Minister recorded in *Hansard* of January 23, page 12096:

We aim to reach a total of 1 per cent of the national income within a short period of time.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems to me that the question as asked is argumentative in nature.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Speaker, although I fail to see how my request for reconciliation of the estimates with the Prime Minister's statement can be classified as argumentative I will try again by addressing myself to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to ask him whether next year's estimates disclose an over-all reduction in foreign aid.

**Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, they do not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Royal, if I interpret his question correctly, is asking for information which is available to him in the same way as it is to other hon. members, and therefore the question is not in order.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Speaker, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell the house why the estimates disclose an over-all reduction in foreign aid?

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, I said in answer to that question that there is not. The statistical story which appeared in this morning's *Globe and Mail* is an inaccurate one. Our aid appropriations have been significantly increased in recent years and they have increased in this centennial year. In summary, if the special, non-recurring items are excluded, there is a net increase in aid appropriations of \$42.70 million. These figures refer to aid only and do not include ECIC (Section 21-A) credit—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre on a point of order.

**Mr. Churchill:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Earlier today we were prohibited from discussing the estimates for the coming year. We were told that we could not discuss them until they are referred to parliament for study. Now the Acting Prime Minister is commenting on the book of estimates.

[*Mr. Fairweather.*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the hon. member for Royal should have borne in mind the representation or suggestion now made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre. I must bring to the attention of the hon. member for Royal that the question, even as asked the third time, was still out of order. I am sure I should not have allowed it. However, having done so I suppose the Acting Prime Minister was entitled to reply to it. The point raised by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre is well taken and I suggest that perhaps this would be a good time to call orders of the day.

**Mr. Martin (Essex East):** Mr. Speaker, may I make one further point? I do not think it is fair for the hon. gentleman to suspect his own colleague who has asked the question.

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

**GRAIN****REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN PRICE UNDER INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I addressed a question to the Minister of Agriculture, who happened to be absent from the house and his parliamentary secretary said he would take the question as notice. My question had to do with the announcement yesterday by the Minister of Transport that there would be an increase in the tolls on the St. Lawrence seaway which would be reflected in the cost of producing wheat. I ask the minister whether he has done anything under the international wheat agreement to increase the price of wheat to the producer.

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the subject matter of the question comes more directly under the responsibilities of my colleague the Minister of Trade and Commerce, but I can assure the hon. member that our representatives at Geneva are working actively and forcibly to see to it that the western wheat farmers get a fair shake in any new world wheat agreement.

**An hon. Member:** It is about time.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Reynold Rapp (Humboldt-Melfort-Tisdale):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Trade and Commerce but in his absence perhaps another minister would answer it. The minister has returned