

*Trade*

answer to the hon. member for Prince Albert. If the sales policy of the United States in relation to agricultural products has not adversely affected the sale of Canadian wheat, why has the Canadian percentage of the world wheat market dropped substantially during this year?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I did not say that the sales policy of the United States had not adversely affected Canada. I think it has, naturally. But my hon. friend speaks of the percentage of sales of Canadian wheat. I do not know to what figure he is referring. Is he referring to the international wheat agreement sales or total sales?

**Mr. Argue:** Canada's percentage of the total world wheat sales.

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I am not prepared to accept that statement without reviewing the figures. Our percentage of total sales has been reasonably good.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I should like to ask a supplementary question of the minister in relation to the answer he gave me. Is it not a fact that the United States is following a fire sale policy now in connection with some \$2 billion of farm products, and will that have any detrimental effect upon Canadian marketing conditions?

**Mr. Howe (Port Arthur):** I am not familiar with fire sales, Mr. Speaker; I never attended one. It is a fact that the United States has an appropriation, I think of a billion dollars, for the purpose of assisting in the disposal of surplus products. I think there is no doubt that by their disposal policies they have displaced our products in certain markets. What we can do about it, I do not know. The policies of the United States are their policies and are not ours. We follow our own policies. As I say, we protest where we think a protest is warranted, and we have protested in connection with certain recent transactions.

[Later:]

OIL—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION ON UNITED STATES RESTRICTIONS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition):** I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the statement made by the minister, and the fact that he read to this house a communication to the government of the United States concerning the restrictions on the movement of oil across the boundary between Canada and the United States, can he inform the house if there has been any formal reply from the government of the

[Mr. Argue.]

United States or any official of that government, and if so, what the answer is?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** A formal reply has been received, Mr. Speaker, and we are attempting to get the permission of the state department of the United States government to make that reply public. We have not as yet received such permission.

**Mr. Fulton:** Does that not fall into the same category as the Yalta papers?

LEAD AND ZINC—REPORTED INCREASE IN UNITED STATES TARIFFS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George H. Hees (Broadview):** Can the Minister of Trade and Commerce say whether the Canadian government has protested to the United States government against a possible restriction on the importation into the United States of Canadian zinc and lead, and if so what reply has been received?

**Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** We have filed several protests over the last 12 months on the subject to which my hon. friend refers, Mr. Speaker, but whether any recent protest has been filed is a question that might properly be addressed to the Department of External Affairs.

**Mr. Hees:** I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, following upon the reply by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Has the Department of External Affairs protested to the United States government on the possible restriction of the importation into the United States of Canadian zinc and lead?

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I would have to look into that matter. It is almost as difficult for us to keep track of these protests as it is to keep track of the questions concerning them from hon. gentlemen opposite.

**Mr. Hees:** May I ask a supplementary question? Will the minister take the question as notice and give a reply tomorrow?

**Mr. Pearson:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

WINNIPEG AND ST. BONIFACE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

CONSOLIDATION OF EXISTING STATUTES

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)** moved the first reading of Bill No. 285, respecting the Winnipeg and St. Boniface harbour commissioners.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.