

As for heavy equipment such as tractors and bulldozers, I may say that a good many of these machines have already been made available to the Canadian government for use on defence projects. I have every confidence that the usable remainder will, in due course, be salvaged and put to profitable employment.

With reference to the allegation that agents of the United States federal bureau of investigation have been examining the situation, and that they have made threats of prosecution against Canadians who have been combing the army dumps in the area concerned, I am informed by the special commissioner that there is no evidence to support these assertions. In any event, as hon. members will understand, officers of the federal bureau of investigation would have no authority in Canada to take such action as has been alleged.

As hon. members know, supplies and equipment for the use of United States armed forces in Canada have been admitted free of all duties and taxes on the express condition that they were required for the exclusive use of those forces. With the gradual completion of the defence programmes in the north-west, there are bound to be surplus items of equipment and supplies left at isolated outposts and construction camps in the north country. These will probably include articles of every sort, some new, some used, some scrap and some repairable. The cost of transporting these articles, frequently by air, to the place they now are has been very high. It may often not be worth while to ship them back to the United States. However, under the law such supplies cannot be disposed of in Canada to other users than the United States army except after appraisal and payment of the usual duties and taxes which they would have had to pay if they had been ordered from the United States for private use in the first instance.

As I have said, the Canadian government has taken the initiative in proposing to the United States an over-all agreement which would provide an orderly procedure for the salvaging of United States surplus stocks in Canada. I am hopeful that definite arrangements may soon be made in this matter. We should recognize, however, that even such an agreement will not fully meet all the difficulties of a complicated and unusual situation. I have, therefore, instructed the departments of government concerned to try to work out some practical and realistic arrangements so that the requirements of the revenue laws do not in any circumstances result in the unnecessary destruction of goods that could be put to useful local purposes.

Mr. GREEN: May I point out to the Prime Minister in connection with his statement that there is a press dispatch in the lower right-hand corner of page 12 of this evening's *Ottawa Journal* about the same matter. It is headed "Says medical supplies thrown away in Alaska", and the item reads:

Vancouver, July 27. Large amounts of medical supplies were among material thrown on a big dump of unused United States Army goods near Dawson Creek, B.C.—

It was not in Alaska at all.

—Peter H. Schroeder, Dawson Creek trucking contractor, said here to-day.

"Enough stuff was tossed away to stock a drug store for 10 years," he said.

Perhaps this also might be investigated.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It would come under what I have already suggested.

#### METHYL ALCOHOL

##### ALLEGED FAILURE TO HAVE CONTAINERS LABELLED "POISON"

On the orders of the day:

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): When my estimates were under consideration the other day the hon. member for Saint John-Albert (Mr. Hazen) asked if any investigation had been made into a poisoning incident which arose through the drinking of methyl hydrate, which had been shipped in containers which did not bear the word "poison". I inquired into the matter and found that an investigation had been made and a report submitted to the Department of National Revenue for their consideration. I am told that instructions now have been given by the Department of National Revenue to have a prosecution instituted against the suppliers of this substance.

#### PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

##### STATEMENTS OF MR. DUMOULIN AND MR. SAURIOL —INCIDENT AT LETHBRIDGE MEETING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): Is the Minister of Justice yet in a position to give us any report on the investigation he is making with respect to Mr. Jacques Dumoulin?

Hon. L. S. ST. LAURENT (Minister of Justice): I think I should endeavour to dispose of this matter definitely, if I can. I find that it was first referred to in the house by the leader of the opposition on Tuesday, July 18, as appears at page 4973 of *Hansard*. I happened to be away at that time attending the monetary conference at Bretton Woods, and I did not have an opportunity of seeing