

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

of Veterans Affairs. I address it in the identical language used by the minister on another occasion under somewhat different circumstances. Has the government received a brief from the dominion executive of the Canadian Legion asking for a general increase in rates of veterans pensions and allowances, as well as an increase in the ceiling on permissible income under the War Veterans' Allowance Act? If so what action, if any, is being taken by the federal government or the Department of Veterans Affairs on this request?

**Hon. A. J. Brooks (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I would say in reply, yes; the dominion executive of the Canadian Legion presented a brief to the government on October 8, 1958. It contained certain resolutions dealing with pensions and war veterans allowances. The resolutions contained the representations as mentioned in the hon. member's question. These representations are being studied.

(Translation):

**COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT****PULPWOOD—INQUIRY AS TO PROSECUTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Noel Dorion (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

Could the Minister of Justice inform the house of the progress made in regard to the penal procedures initiated under the Combines Investigation Act, against various paper companies charged with infringing the provisions of that act in securing their supplies from pulpwood producers in Quebec and elsewhere in Canada?

Could the minister supply us, at the same time, with the list of the companies concerned?

**Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice):** The hon. member is no doubt referring to the prosecution arising out of last year's report of the restrictive trade practices commission, concerning the purchase of pulpwood in certain areas of eastern Canada.

The preliminary inquiry in connection with that prosecution, which was held in the Montreal court of sessions of the peace has now been adjourned to March 9. The charge is to the effect that there has been conspiracy to prevent or unduly restrict competition in the purchase of pulpwood in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

Seventeen companies are involved and I shall give the list of them to the hon. member.

[Mr. Herridge.]

(Text):

**TRADE****COMMUNIST CHINA—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is the minister in a position to comment on a statement attributed to Mr. B. F. Errington of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited on his return from a trip to China that Chinese officials are of the opinion that Canada's trade with China could be increased? Is the minister in a position to say what further steps are now being taken to increase our trade with China?

**Hon. Gordon Churchill (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I regret I cannot offer my thanks to the hon. member for having given me adequate notice of this question, because I learned about it at 25 minutes past 2, only a few minutes before I entered the chamber. I will therefore have to take the hon. member's question as notice.

**COAL****AMENDMENT OF LEGISLATION TO INCREASE FUNDS FOR LOANS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. J. Robichaud (Gloucester):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, notice of which I sent to his office this morning.

As the amount available for loans under the Maritime Coal Production Assistance Act is now only \$2,899.33, and as an application for a further loan of over \$6 million has been made by the Dominion Coal Company, could the minister advise the house if it is the intention of the government to introduce legislation during the present session to make further amounts available under the Maritime Coal Production Assistance Act?

**Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** I thank the hon. member for Gloucester for having given me notice of this question. I will say in answer that this is a matter of government policy, and that if it is decided to take any action a resolution will be introduced in the house in due course.

**Mr. Robichaud:** A supplementary question. Can the minister give the house any indication as to when we may expect a decision on the request now before the government on behalf of the coal miners of Nova Scotia?

**Mr. Comtois:** Mr. Speaker, I think I have already answered that question.