

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Later:]

Mr. Nesbitt: I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister as yet had an opportunity to arrange for reopening discussions with the ministers of agriculture for Ontario, and Quebec, as well as with the heads of dairy organizations, with a view to arriving at some solution of the dairy industry's problems? I refer particularly to the question of the pooling of milk.

Mr. Hays: We have not as yet, Mr. Speaker, had an opportunity to arrange for these discussions.

INQUIRY AS TO CONTINUATION OF ACREAGE PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has had time yet to give consideration to the making of the usual acreage payments to western farmers, which they are expecting?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): No, we have not, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Kindt: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that the minister has not yet had time, and I take his word for that, is it his intention to do so?

Mr. Hays: Mr. Speaker, we are going to take a look at all agricultural policies as one relates to the other. The agricultural policy of the former government and our agricultural policy differ somewhat, but we are taking a long look at the situation with a view to doing the very best we can for agriculture from coast to coast.

Mr. G. D. Clancy (Yorkton): If the minister is not prepared to make acreage payments, has he considered paying \$3 a bushel for the new crop year?

FISHERIES

NORTH PACIFIC COMMISSION—EXTENSION OF JAPANESE FISHING RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Fisheries. Can the minister advise the house whether, in implementing the contentious recommendation of the north Pacific fisheries commission extending fishing rights to Japan, he incurred much opposition from his British Columbia colleagues in the cabinet, who opposed such a move a few months ago unless the matter was first referred to the standing committee on marine and fisheries?

[Mr. Hays.]

Hon. H. J. Robichaud (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member I wish to say that when the decision was taken by the government, on a matter which should have been decided months ago, it was taken by all members of the government.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if his department sought a legal opinion as to whether this alteration in the treaty could be made by executive order?

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, all information required before taking such a decision was obtained by the government.

BROADCASTING

REQUEST FOR MEETING OF HEADS OF ORGANIZATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State in one of his roles, this time as house oracle for the broadcasting system in Canada, whether he did announce a decision that the heads of the board of broadcast governors, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Canadian association of broadcasters were to get together in order to determine what is wrong or what is inadequate with respect to the broadcasting legislation; and if he did will he give us more information as to his purpose?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I did not give any directions to anyone in this matter, as I would have no constitutional right to do so. I did make a request to the heads of the B.B.G. and the C.B.C. and the chairman of the Canadian association of broadcasters: I made the request to them severally and then made it publicly jointly, that they should meet together as individuals to try to make a brief report on the points of broadcasting policy on which they were in agreement and those points on which they differed, and to indicate the differences as clearly as possible. I thought this would be helpful to the whole of the Canadian public though, of course, we recognize that the paramount interest in broadcasting is in none of these three organizations but in the public itself.

It seemed to me, however, that before embarking on any changes it would be desirable to learn from the people most closely associated with broadcasting just how much agreement there was among them and the points on which they really differed. I read a written statement at a meeting, and I would