

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I said in answer to a question the other day that I hoped before seeding time the government would give a clear explanation of the marketing outlook affecting all grains, on the basis of which farmers could make their plans.

SPREAD BETWEEN PRICES PAID AND RECEIVED  
IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Raymond Langlois (Megantic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and relates to a question asked last week. With regard to the price paid to western farmers and the price paid by eastern farmers for grain, will the minister tell the house who causes such an increase between the selling and purchasing prices? Has he found that out yet, and would he tell the house what his findings are?

**Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I believe this question is going to be discussed by the standing committee on agriculture and colonization.

## GRAIN

## INQUIRY AS TO FREEZING OF DELIVERY QUOTAS

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the wide disparity in grain delivery quotas in the west, has the minister given instructions to freeze delivery quotas at three bushels so that those points on the initial quota can catch up to the two and three bushel delivery quotas before proceeding with a four and five bushel open quota?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not given any such instructions. I am sure it is in the interests of all western farmers that as much grain as possible should move through our ports this year, and I have given every freedom to the Canadian wheat board to do that in a way that is satisfactory to the western farmers and that will accomplish the objectives they have before them.

**Mr. Korchinski:** A supplementary question. How can the minister suggest, for example, that points on the initial quota are receiving fair treatment? How does he expect to equalize deliveries? Some points on the initial delivery quota are only ten miles away from points where there is a three bushel quota. Where is there any parity there?

**Mr. Sharp:** I have complete confidence that the wheat board is trying to do everything possible to expedite the movement of wheat and to achieve as much equality as can be achieved with that limitation upon them, and

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

I really do not think it would be in my interests or in the interests of the western farmers to instruct them otherwise.

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

POINT EDWARD NAVAL BASE—INQUIRY AS TO  
EXPANSION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Now that the minister has allayed the fears of the people of Prince Edward Island by making a statement in the house regarding the future of the R.C.A.F. base at Summerside, for which I commend him, will he now assure the people of Cape Breton island that the plans for expansion at the Point Edward naval base will now be carried out and that the activities of the base will not be diminished in any way, thus eliminating fears that have arisen in this regard?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any plans for expansion, but I think this is the type of question which might wait until our estimates are before the house.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** On a question of privilege, with all due respect to you, sir, this is a most urgent and important question to the people of Cape Breton island, who are in fear of the curtailment of activity at this base which will affect the livelihood of many people there. Certainly I do not think the matter should be sloughed off in this manner.

## CANADIAN FLAG

INQUIRY AS TO ORDER IN COUNCIL DESIGNATING  
RED ENSIGN

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of an answer he gave to the hon. member for Chapleau in the house yesterday, when he assured the hon. member that a truly Canadian flag would be flown on the occasion of the 1967 world fair in Montreal. Would the Prime Minister inform the house and the country if it is the government's intention to rescind the order in council designating the red ensign as an appropriate flag for Canada?

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I said on this matter yesterday and previously.