

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Nielsen: The reply of the Minister of National Defence to my question concerned only the Alaska highway, not the Haines cut-off. In the absence of a clearcut answer with respect to these negotiations, can the minister assure the house that only Canadian workmen will be employed on the maintenance of this road?

Mr. Laing: As my hon. friend might have suspected, this is the end to which we are working.

TRADE

POTATOES—STEPS TO PROVIDE EXPORT MARKETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Mullally (Kings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. In view of the large potato production in the maritime provinces and the very depressed market price prevailing at the present time, I wonder whether the minister could advise what action his department is taking to provide an export market for potatoes.

Some hon. Members: Order paper.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a question of some urgency. Perhaps hon. gentlemen do not think markets for potatoes are important, but I do.

Mr. Nowlan: When did you grow a potato?

Mr. Sharp: My officials are in contact with the potato producers and shippers in the maritime provinces and are well aware of the present need for export markets. They are exploring every possible opportunity for sales to traditional as well as new markets, and any prospects will be reported to the trade as soon as they arise.

WHEAT—COMMODITIES TO BE TAKEN FROM
RUSSIA IN EXCHANGE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the hon. member for Megantic addressed a question to the Minister of Agriculture which properly should have been addressed to me. I should like to answer it now. The question was whether or not Canada received any commodities, apart from cash in connection with the wheat transaction with Russia, and if so, what were those products? The answer is that all the shipments that have been made from Canada to the Soviet union have been paid for in cash. There are no barter arrangements in the agreement.

[Mr. Laing.]

GRAIN

ALBERTA—COMPLAINTS RESPECTING QUOTAS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has just been dealing with the marketing of potatoes. Has he had a complaint from the Alberta wheat pool and farm organizations that some of the points in Alberta have not even had a one bushel quota? In answering a question by the Leader of the Opposition last week he said—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Woolliams: —that quotas would be increased by two or three bushels in Saskatchewan. Has he had any complaint from the Alberta wheat pool and, if so, is it being investigated?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I personally have not seen the complaint but I shall certainly look up the files and see if it exists. I can assure the hon. member that we are trying to increase quotas as rapidly as possible.

INQUIRIES OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Lucien Plourde (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister aware of a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that obviously a group under the leadership of the hon. member for Red Deer would at all costs support the Liberal government?

[Text]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I study all statements of the right hon. gentleman very carefully.

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Temisamingue): I wonder if the Prime Minister can say if changes in the ministry are imminent?

AGRICULTURE

PROVISION OF FEED GRAIN STORAGE IN EASTERN
CANADA

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Gregoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture for eastern Canada, the hon. member for Matapedia-Matane. Can the minister tell the house whether the government has initiated proceedings, or studies, in order to