

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

retroactive pay? In other words, is the company saying to the workers that they have to toe the line?

**Mr. Hellyer:** Mr. Speaker, some questions do arise in my mind. Of course I shall be pleased to further investigate these allegations, but since this is a private company, which does not come within my administrative responsibility, I think there is some limit to the extent to which I can attempt to answer questions on its behalf. I shall of course be glad to pass on to the company any representations I receive, and I shall relay the answers to my hon. friend.

**Mr. Orlikow:** May I direct a further supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. Will the Minister of Labour see whether this lay-off constitutes an unfair labour practice? I know that suggestion has been made to him.

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** I shall be glad to look into this matter. My first reaction would be that since 22 days' notice was given, there has been no unfair practice.

**EXPO '67****STATEMENT ON GRANTING OF SEVERANCE PAY**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to answer two questions on behalf of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters). The first question, by the hon. member for Fraser Valley, had to do with severance pay at Expo '67.

I am advised by the corporation that provision was made in initial planning, in 1963, for continuity payments to employees who remained with the corporation throughout the time required, in excess of one year, to complete their respective tasks. The purpose of such provision was to avoid disruptions which might have occurred from lack of continuity of employment within the staff of the corporation.

The federal government's share will be 50 per cent of the total amount of payment, which has not as yet been determined.

**TRADE****STATEMENT ON SIGNING OF INTERNATIONAL GRAIN AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** The second question

was from the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar and had to do with the number of countries which have signed the international grain agreement. As of now the number is 31. This number includes all the major wheat exporting countries and a significant number of major importing countries such as Britain, Japan and the European Economic Community.

It is not unusual for governments to accede to international agreements of this type after the deadline for signing and even after the agreement has come into effect. We have already received indications that some of the governments which did not sign for administrative or other reasons are giving consideration to acceding, and we are hopeful that the membership of the 1967 arrangement will reach or exceed the membership of the current international wheat agreement, which was 49 countries in November of this year.

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****POSSIBLE REMOVAL FROM TRAFFIC DUTY AT AIRPORTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** I have a question for the Solicitor General. Is it correct that the minister intends to remove R.C.M.P. officers from traffic duties at Malton and other airports in order to save highly trained personnel for other purposes?

**Hon. L. T. Pennell (Solicitor General):** We conduct studies from time to time to determine how the mounted police can be put to the best use. As the present moment there are no plans to move any of the constables from Malton airport. However, this is part of an over-all study.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE****REQUEST FOR JOINT MEETING OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE COMMITTEES**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Harold Winch (Vancouver East):** I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is my understanding that the minister and his colleague the Minister of National Defence will be returning from the NATO meeting on December 15. May I ask whether it is the intention of both ministers to call a joint meeting of the external affairs committee and the defence committee to make a report immediately on their return, or will such a meeting be postponed until