

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) at the Alberta and Saskatchewan wheat pool convention last November?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I can speak only for myself. I have not announced a twenty-cent payment on behalf of the wheat pool. I have announced that there will be a payment, and I can say that such payment will be made before seeding of the next crop.

Mr. Argue: According to press reports, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Commerce announced a twenty-cent increase.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Roseiown-Biggars): I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture, supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Wood Mountain (Mr. Argue). Did the minister make an announcement that a twenty-cent payment would be made to the farmers?

Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner (Minister of Agriculture): The hon. member is asking me?

Mr. Coldwell: Yes. Are you not the Minister of Agriculture?

Mr. Rowe: One sows and the other reaps.

Mr. Gardiner: The answer to the question in a word would be no, but I hardly think that would satisfy the curiosity of my hon. friend. The statement which I made, I think on the same day that the Minister of Trade and Commerce spoke in Calgary, was to the effect that an additional payment would be made, and that it would be approximately twenty cents. I might say that I think that suggestion will be carried out when the announcement is finally made.

Mr. Rowe: The ministers should have had a rehearsal.

GANDER AIRPORT**QUESTION AS TO LANDING RIGHTS FOR
COMMERCIAL COMPANIES**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Minister of Transport): Yesterday the leader of the opposition asked my colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Pearson) a question in connection with facilities at Gander. The question was as follows:

I should like to know under what authority the information was conveyed about two weeks ago to embassies, ministries or other official offices of those countries in which there are companies which have commercial air operations going through Gander, to the effect that they would not have commercial landing rights at Gander on and after April 1 next.

The reason I am answering the question is that the Secretary of State for External

Affairs suggested that I do so, in his absence. The information I have is that no such information was conveyed to the embassies, ministries and the like. The air service operations to the island of Newfoundland are threefold. First, there are the operations of Trans-Canada Air Lines; they are to be continued and perhaps expanded after the union. Then there are the commercial air services other than T.C.A. and Newfoundland has been told that they will be permitted to continue operation without interruption. Finally, there are the international air services which operate through the port of Gander. Those services are performed by international companies enjoying landing rights by virtue of the international air transit agreement, as well as traffic rights, and also by virtue of the bilateral agreements which the United Kingdom government has entered into with other countries and which the government of Newfoundland has also entered into. After union it is the intention of the Canadian government to see that any policy relating to international agreements and the granting of commercial rights in Newfoundland be consistent with policy followed in Canada. Our policy which was adopted in respect of international civil aviation and the granting of commercial traffic rights in Newfoundland must be consistent with the general policy normally followed by the government of Canada. We have already entered into discussions with these countries, with a view to bringing these agreements into line with our Canadian policy. Discussions to this end are now under way.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps the minister would permit me to clarify the question which is raised by the explanation he has given on the third point. What he has said on the third point is in conformity with the information I have received and which led to the question yesterday, namely, that communications had been conveyed through official channels which indicated the revision of existing commercial landing rights at Gander in Newfoundland as of and after April 1. The statement the minister has made, that these arrangements are to be brought into conformity with existing arrangements in Canada, indicates an important change in the situation which I think should be noted and followed up. I do not intend to pursue the matter now, but the minister will find that the result will be to limit the landing rights of those international carriers to what are described as technical landing rights as distinguished from commercial landing rights. The limitation will