

the newly announced inquiry into the cost of farm machinery will include any examination of the problem of so-called tied sales in this industry, a problem which I raised in this house on March 31 in a question to the Minister of Justice?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I believe the terms of reference of the inquiry are sufficiently broad to cover all aspects of farm machinery costs, but I will bring this particular question to the attention of the commissioner.

TRANSPORT

PURCHASE BY RAILWAYS OF NEW TYPE HOPPER CARS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lawrence Watson (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Could the minister inform the house whether the Canadian railway transportation companies, namely the C.N.R. and C.P.R., are planning on purchasing new, specially built hopper cars capable of carrying twice as much grain as the present largest grain cars, such as have been introduced on the United States railway lines?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This question should be placed on the order paper.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

AKLAVIK, N.W.T.—CLOSING OF FEDERAL DAY SCHOOL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources. I would repeat the question I posed yesterday with regard to Aklavik, and ask whether he is yet in a position to answer it.

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources): Mr. Speaker, the old school building was condemned. We are busy building a new building, which will be ready for September 1. There is no interruption of classes; we have the children in other accommodation at the present time for the balance of the current school term.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

ELECTIONS ACT

SOLICITATION OF POLITICAL FUNDS BY RETURNING OFFICERS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State.

Would she tell the house if the returning officer in a federal constituency can solicit financial contributions on behalf of a political party?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking for an interpretation of the act. That question is out of order.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA—REQUEST THAT FURTHER AID BE GIVEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the government giving consideration to providing the government of India with additional gifts of wheat to alleviate the famine conditions existing in that country at the present time?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend will recall that we have already provided assistance to India to meet her very regrettably serious food situation, in the amount of some \$75 million for this year. The high commissioner has acknowledged this, as has Mr. Ashoka Mehta, the Indian minister for planning.

Mr. Nesbitt: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that a large portion of the gift just mentioned by the minister is a forgiveness of loans and interest thereon, is the government considering giving additional gifts of wheat, which is something the people can eat?

Mr. Martin (Essex East): My hon. friend, of course, is wrong in his facts. There was a cancellation of an indebtedness of some \$10 million this year. The \$75 million represents a net amount.