

physically be done. What is physically possible as the Creditistes say, could be done materially also. I can assure the hon. member that maximum efforts are being made by the Wheat Board and by the railways in order to reach this objective. I will be relieved if and when they achieve it.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I fully accept the assurance and the intent of the minister. Will he agree that if this objective is not achieved he and those responsible under him are prepared to consider an extension of the crop year until the five-bushel quota is achieved?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This appears to be a hypothetical question.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. With all due respect to Your Honour, the question is very close to not being hypothetical.

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, would the minister consider extending the crop year, whether or not deliveries are made, so as to enable the farmers to receive their final payments within the coming year to help them in financing the following year's operations? With the crop year terminating at the usual time, it will be some 18 months before the farmers are in a position to receive their final payments.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friends on the other side are too knowledgeable for me to have to explain to them the disadvantages of extending the crop year, one of which is that people who are not in a position to deliver before the end of the present crop year might find ways and means of delivering afterward if the year were extended. This would be unfair to those people who could not deliver as much as they would have liked and had been able to deliver, but were not allowed to do so. That is one of the obvious disadvantages, and there are others. Again, as has been said, the question of whether or not we will reach this objective of a five bushel quota still remains unanswered but we are working with the Wheat Board in an effort to make sure this can be done.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, has the minister had any discussions with the Wheat Board or the Board of Grain Commissioners with a view to authorizing the elevator companies to use off-track, off-site or other storage facilities, or has he considered authorizing the elevator companies to store grain on the ground at those shipping points which have not got the five-bushel

Inquiries of the Ministry

quota by July 31? If these discussions have not been held, will the minister hold them or will he authorize the board to allow the elevator companies to do this?

Mr. Pepin: Some of these points were discussed at the last meeting and they are still being considered.

[*Translation*]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ROBERVAL COMPOSITE SCHOOL

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I shall give the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce some respite and direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

In answer to my question of May 29 with regard to the federal contribution to the cost of building the composite school in Roberval, I was told that the amount of that contribution had not yet been determined.

Can the minister tell us today what progress has been made in the negotiations with the local school board and if the amount of the federal contribution has been determined?

Mr. Speaker: In my view, that question should be put on the order paper. If it is urgent, the hon. member could ask the minister to discuss it with him at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, should the house keep on sitting, we will then have some additional evenings. I therefore ask that my question be dealt with at ten o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might come to some arrangements in order that it be discussed during an additional evening, even if the house is not sitting.

[*English*]

TRADE

DECLINE IN SURPLUS—INQUIRY AS TO ACTION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Canada's trade surplus has decreased by more than \$300 million during the first six months of the year, is it the intention of the government to take steps immediately to correct this serious trend in order that serious unemployment will not develop as a result of the volume of imports into Canada increasing much faster than the volume of exports?