

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

elevator agents are expected to assist grain producers in the filing of necessary information for Operation Lift and in view of the fact that this additional workload comes at a time of year when the elevator agents already have a very heavy workload, can the minister indicate whether some reasonable remuneration will be made to elevator agents in recognition of their performance of these added duties?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, the matter of the work involved in completing these forms was discussed with the various elevator companies. They gladly agreed to take on this work as part of their regular customer services.

**Mr. Burton:** Has this matter been discussed with the employees of the various elevator companies? Have any representations been received from any employees of elevator companies or employee organizations? If so, what has been the response of the minister or the Wheat Board to the representations?

**Mr. Lang:** No representations have come to my attention, Mr. Speaker. I will have to check to see whether any have been received by the Wheat Board or my office that have not yet reached me. Our discussions, of course, were with the companies.

*[Translation]*DISCUSSION WITH PREMIER THATCHER  
OF BARTERING OF WHEAT

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister.

Since the premier of Saskatchewan said that the minister was naïve regarding the present situation in Saskatchewan, has the minister had talks with Premier Thatcher about the barter of wheat against other commodities from foreign countries and has he taken a new approach to the problem?

*[English]*

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** There have been many exchanges between myself and several of my colleagues and the government of Saskatchewan, and we have not revised our position in connection with the dangers involved in certain transactions which were suggested by Saskatchewan.

WHEAT BOARD DEMAND FOR REPAYMENT OF  
CASH ADVANCES

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio [Mr. Burton.]

in charge of the Wheat Board following a question I asked him yesterday, now that he has had an opportunity to familiarize himself with the recent action of the Canadian Wheat Board in sending certain letters to farmers in connection with overdue accounts. Will the minister advise the House whether it is the intention of the Wheat Board to add interest on accounts due when farmers are unable to deliver wheat to repay their cash advances?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** It is not the intention of the Wheat Board to treat as in default and therefore as subject to interest charges anyone who has been delivering grain as opportunity presented. The board issued a press release affirming this situation on June 4.

**Mr. Gleave:** May we have a copy of the document or of the decision made by the Canadian Wheat Board? Further, will the board now write letters to those farmers of whom it demanded payment of principal and interest, pointing out to them that as long as they have wheat on hand they need not comply with the request which was made?

**Mr. Lang:** Without doubt there has been confusion raised in the minds of some of the producers. I will check to see whether the release by the board has adequately dealt with this confusion. It should be forcefully stated that the Wheat Board had intended to draw to the attention of producers only the amount outstanding from the 1968-69 crop year and has now affirmed that as long as producers are making deliveries they will not be placed in default.

PROVISION OF FOUR-BUSHEL QUOTA TO ALL  
ELEVATOR POINTS BY JULY 31

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Can the minister still guarantee a four-bushel quota by July 31 to all country elevator points?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** We have said a number of times that the four-bushel quota should be available to all producers for the crop year.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—CANADIAN OFFER RESPECTING  
PEACEKEEPING FORCE

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** My question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the offer made