Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the question of maximizing our capacity at Vancouver is receiving consideration. The peak of unloadings apparently results from ships not presenting themselves when they were scheduled. The use of unit trains would not meet this problem. The hold-up is not in the cleaning of the grain or presenting it at the terminals, but rather in the availability of berths at the moment to get the grain on the ships.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I have to bring to the attention of hon. members that there are just a few minutes left before the end of the question period, and every supplementary asked is of course at the expense of hon. members who are awaiting the opportunity to ask questions. The hon. member for Battle River on a supplementary.

Mr. Downey: In view of the fact that when we check with the exporters they say they can predict the arrival in port of ships within minutes, could the minister in charge of the Wheat Board not attempt to get together with these people so that the public will know what is going on?

Mr. Speaker: That is a representation, of course. The hon, member for Brant.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT FORECASTS

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Is the minister prepared to say whether his department is forecasting a decline or a rise in seasonally adjusted unemployment over the next few months?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have very serious doubts about that question.

SECRETARY OF STATE

INQUIRY AS TO GRANT TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER PEARSON TO WRITE MEMOIRS

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I have a question for the Secretary of State. Has the Canadian government granted moneys to former Prime Minister Lester Pearson to write his memoirs?

• (3:10 n m)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question could well be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Paproski: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, since this session has almost come to an end and questions put on the order paper may not be answered, could the Secretary of State just answer yes or no?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The rule is very simple. I suggest that that kind of question should be placed on the order paper. The rules indicate that if there is urgency [Mr. Downey.]

and hon. members are anxious to obtain this kind of information, they can do so by having the matter considered at the time of adjournment.

Mr. Trudeau: Raise it at ten o'clock.

Mr. Paproski: On another point of order, Mr. Speaker, if there is to be such a grant, if the Secretary of State is giving money to former prime minister Lester Pearson for this purpose, then I suggest he should give money to two other former Prime Ministers.

Some hon. Members: Oh. oh!

Mr. Baldwin: Wait until next year. The present Prime Minister will then be the former prime minister.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Save some money for Pierre; as a former prime minister next year, he will need it.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REOPENING OF OFFICES TO EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. The minister has indicated to the House that he will be announcing in the House some changes to permit unemployment insurance claims to be paid more quickly. Since in some areas of Canada the service is extremely good whereas in other areas there is quite a bit of difficulty, would the minister consider reopening on a full-time basis some of the offices that were closed formerly?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are reviewing the work load in various areas of Canada. We have opened some offices, as hon. members on both sides of the House know. In view of the representation of the hon. member, I will ask for a full report tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. John's West.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for St. John's West.

AIRPORTS

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.—OPERABILITY OF INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the minister say what action has been taken by his department to ensure that the instrument landing system is working at St. John's airport?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will have to give the answer informally, in a