

Cape Breton are entitled to some consideration in this situation. The Minister of Labour or the Minister of Manpower and Immigration should be in a position to say something as to whether men should be compulsorily retired at the age of 60.

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON VOLUME DRIED

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): May I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture? Has he now completed comparing notes with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce? Can he now give a more complete report to the house on the amount of grain that has been dried on farms, at country elevators and terminals and what estimated amounts remain to be dried?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it will take me a minute and a half to give this information. It goes forward with the qualifications I gave previously. It is very difficult to get estimates on this kind of operation. We believe there are now approximately 3,468 dryers in the prairie provinces with a total drying capacity of 4,994,000 bushels per day.

Weather conditions during February were not conducive to drying. It is estimated there were approximately 60 million bushels dried on farms up to March 1. It is estimated also there could be as much as 193 million bushels remaining to be dried as of March 1. If 60 per cent of the capacity of these 3,468 grain dryers were used, we estimate it would probably take seven or eight weeks to clean up the balance of the damp grain on the farms.

We have more precise figures respecting the amount that has been dried in the terminals. I gave some of that information earlier today. I could add to that because it is reasonably precise.

Mr. Benjamin: I suggest the minister have leave of the house to table all of these figures so they will appear in *Hansard*. It would be easier for all of us.

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, during the visit of the Agricultural Committee to western Canada during the Easter recess, is it the minister's intention to sit in on a number of its meetings so that he could ascertain the real seriousness of the situation, especially following the announcement of the final wheat payment?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture is already aware of the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. Benjamin: As a further supplementary question may I ask the minister if the figures he just quoted include any estimate of grain dried at country elevators?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, the figure I gave was the amount dried at all positions other than terminals.

[*Translation*]

AIRPORTS

MONTREAL—AWARENESS OF C.B.C. RESPECTING DECISION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I had a supplementary question a while ago, but the main question was put 25 minutes ago. I will nevertheless put my question now to the Secretary of State.

Was the C.B.C. aware of the decision taken by the cabinet last Thursday?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I am unable to give this information, Mr. Speaker. I will have to inquire about that myself.

[*English*]

BROADCASTING

DIRECTIVE RESPECTING FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State and I suppose it is related to the question that has just been asked. In view of its importance to the broadcasting media, could the Secretary of State indicate whether it is his intention to make tapes available to the media of the statement with respect to the new directive controlling the foreign ownership of broadcasting facilities in Canada, or is he going to be content with the old fashioned type of press release that reached each hon. member today?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I think that the directives have been properly given. They had been announced for a very long time and I must admit I was abroad when they were given all that publicity.

However, should the hon. member for Brandon-Souris find the information lacking in precision, I could certainly let him have the text of the directives or even table it in the house.