

An hon. Member: How about me?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it seems that we have volunteers right here. We will certainly try to see that the best possible candidates are examined for the position of additional commissioner, but I have no prediction to make at the moment as to when the appointment will be made.

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GRAIN

BARLEY—ACTION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES AND STIMULATE DELIVERIES BY FARMERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of persistent reports that the Wheat Board is not offering barley for sale on the export market because of uncertainty as to how much barley farmers will deliver, can the minister responsible for the Wheat Board inform the House what action is being undertaken to take advantage of export opportunities so that farmers will be encouraged to bring the grain forward?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board, of course, has this question very much on its mind in deciding what in fact will be available for sale. I know the commissioners are reviewing the situation daily, and I am sure we can be confident in their ability to handle the question.

[Later:]

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether he will consider increasing the initial price of barley so as to assure that there is a sufficient supply of barley to the Wheat Board for our customers?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be appropriate to consider a change at this stage for this year. It is far too early, of course, to think about the situation for next year.

REQUEST FOR BREAKDOWN OF EXPECTED SALES

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Would the minister responsible for the Wheat Board make an early statement on motions giving a breakdown of the 700 million bushels of grain grown in the crop year that is expected to be sold as stated, and showing for the information of the House how much of the grain is wheat and how much is barley and other grains?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that this would be a subject matter suitable for a statement on motions. When it is possible to provide additional detailed information on sales, the information will of course be supplied, though as I have indicated to the House on previous occasions there is some limitation as to what can in fact be made known because of commercial considerations.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE SCHOLASTIQUE—AGREEMENT BETWEEN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND QUEBEC RESPECTING ACCESS ROADS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that the construction of a roads network is of basic importance to the development of the Ste Scholastique airport, can the Prime Minister tell the House whether a program has been prepared jointly with the province of Quebec in connection with this project or whether Ottawa intends to disclose shortly the contents of the agreement reached with that Province about this roads network?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion this question should be put to the Minister of Transport. I am aware that ministers and officials have met many times in this connection while I have not been involved myself except at the very beginning.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—STEPS TO ACHIEVE PARITY BETWEEN CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES PRICES

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Following a record year for the export of automobiles from Canada to the United States, can the minister inform the House what steps he is taking to ensure that during the coming year there will be price parity in the sale of automobiles as between the two countries?

Mr. Speaker: I think this information should be given to the House in the form of a statement. I would not think it could be replied to by way of an answer during the question period.

Mr. Broadbent: Then may I rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister assure the House that such a statement will be forthcoming in the early future?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am sure there will be many occasions to talk about this particular question, but there is already an indication that the differential, the gap, is closing. I know my hon. friend will not agree with me on these matters, but I expect that and am not surprised. The rise in the suggested list prices in Canada is up by about 3 to 5 per cent over last year. In the United States it is up by about 5 to 6 per cent. In other words, costs are rising faster in the United States than they are in Canada—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Pepin:—and as a result the gap is diminishing.

Mr. Speaker: Order.