

Inquiries of the Ministry

the federal level is close to reality. This is being co-ordinated among the various departments, and when the federal plan is available every effort will be made—and I think it can be successful—to co-ordinate it with provincial, state and federal United States plans.

GRAIN

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

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): I should like to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Canadian Wheat Board figures this week show that 212 delivery points, or over two-thirds of all delivery points in Manitoba, are still on a two-bushel quota. Can the minister assure the House that these points will be able to accept—and I stress “accept”—at least a four-bushel quota by the end of the crop year on July 31, 1970?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): As the hon. member knows, this was the objective indicated by the Canadian Wheat Board, and I am certainly hopeful that that objective can be reached.

Mr. Stewart (Marquette): Have the CPR and the CNR been made aware of the large number of boxcars that will be needed to move this grain in the next two months?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON WHEAT BOARD PRICING AND SALES POLICIES AND INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio. In light of the recommendations of the task force on agriculture with regard to the pricing policies of the Canadian Wheat Board and the ineffectiveness of the International Grains Arrangement, and in view of the fact that shipments from Australia and the United States to international markets were higher this year than last, will the minister make a statement on motions in the near future with regard to the pricing and sales policies of the Canadian Wheat Board and the status of the International Grains Arrangement?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Without accepting some of the preamble to the hon. member's question, I cannot answer the question by saying that a statement on these subjects might be made

soon. Certainly, matters within the task force report will have to be considered by the government, and as decisions are taken on them or on other matters relating to the grain industry announcements will be made.

[Later:]

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): When the Minister without Portfolio makes the statement requested by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, will he also include in it an explanation of why Canada's share of the world wheat market has fallen to 23 per cent from 28 per cent in the 1960s, and what the government intends to do to improve this very serious situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now making a suggestion to the minister. He has to assume that it will be taken into account when the statement is made to the House.

INCREASE IN SHIPMENTS THROUGH PORT OF CHURCHILL

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of his statement on April 28 that we are still headed for the best wheat export year in years, and in view of the announcement the day before yesterday of the sale to the United Arab Republic, delivery of which is to be made during the period of July through October, is the minister in a position to say whether this will create an extension of the grain shipments through Churchill this year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): The extremely good sales year will mean, among other things, that shipments through Churchill will be again at a fairly high level. Most of the possible shipments through Churchill were in fact booked prior to the sale to the United Arab Republic.

Mr. Simpson: Is the minister able to say whether additional shipments will now be made through Churchill in view of the new wheat sales?

Mr. Lang: I cannot say at this stage whether any of these particular shipments may be additional to the previous bookings through Churchill. Of course, the trade has already booked fairly heavily through Churchill, and the question would be whether more could possibly be put through that port.