

Oral Questions

development in each province of one deep water port in conjunction with the Department of Transport and we have been studying the possibility of upgrading certain other ports. The difficulty is competition, that is, the maximum number of port developments that would be to the best advantage of the regions, rather than having a proliferation which might have the opposite effect. I can assure the hon. member that progress is being made. I discussed the question of a deep-water port in Nova Scotia with Premier Regan on Friday.

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FINANCE**DIFFICULTY VETERANS EXPERIENCE IN CASHING PENSION CHEQUES—REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO BANKS BY MINISTER**

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Finance. It has become increasingly evident that veterans and pensioners are having difficulty cashing their pension cheques at banks and financial institutions in the country unless they have an account at a particular bank. Could the minister make representations to those financial institutions to the effect that the government cheques are good and upon proper identification should be cashed without any problem to those people who sometimes are a little backward and hesitant about asserting themselves?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I was talking about that very problem with my colleague the Minister of Veterans Affairs earlier today. The problem is not one of solvency of the cheque but of identification. There may be something we can do to facilitate this.

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GRAIN**WHEAT—POSSIBILITY OF DOWNWARD ADJUSTMENT IN PRODUCTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Has the minister considered recommending to Canadian producers a downward adjustment in the projected wheat acreage for Canadian wheat requirements this year? I ask this in light of the apparent turn around in world conditions and the fact that the U.S.S.R. and China have cancelled orders with the United States and Australia, the fact that other eastern European countries may follow suit and the fact warnings sounded by Commissioner Kristjanson that world wheat prices will probably decline because of world market conditions?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we have said throughout the grain situation in the world is a volatile one. Notwithstanding the evidence of the existence of supplies which may be adequate to meet current needs, over-all food reserves in the world are fairly narrow and it is therefore quite likely we will

[Mr. Jamieson.]

continue to recommend that a significant volume of production be sown this year. Crop conditions in various countries could change the position in the short run, but the long-run interests at the moment are in favour of building up our reserves.

WHEAT—POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION IN PRICE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): A supplementary question. Can the minister assure the producers of this country and this parliament that the situation is being closely monitored, and can he advise if these trends are having any effect on the pricing and marketing situation with respect to the Canadian Wheat Board? Can the minister also advise whether we can expect a decline or adjustment downward in wheat prices further to that adjustment made early in January?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think it would be an error to attempt to predict the immediate direction of prices. The Canadian Wheat Board has not been trying to sell a great quantity of wheat at this time, having previously sold a great amount at very good prices. Price movements have been downward and these are subject to many factors including short-run rumours and speculations. I do not particularly want to participate in that. I think there is every likelihood of a good return for grain for some little time and I think in any short period of time prices may go down and go back up again.

Mr. Mazankowski: A final supplementary and I appreciate your tolerance, Mr. Speaker. Can I take it from what the Minister of Justice has said that he is still optimistic about future demands for Canadian wheat and optimistic about the price level as well?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I went into this question at some length before the committee. I was emphatic that I would not change my over-all view of the grain and price situation based on one report of one particular incident or one report of one particular view of crop conditions. A contrary report could immediately change the view, and I do not think we should be thrown from one position to another by one or other of those reports. The basic position is, world supplies are not large at this time and therefore a good production is desired. The price situation is basically sound, but fluctuations up and down of \$1, \$2 or \$3 can certainly happen.

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ENERGY**URANIUM—SAFEGUARDS IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of his answers to earlier questions from the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. Can the minister inform the House whether a set of safeguard procedures have been agreed upon with the government of South Korea in view of the fact that they have concluded, as I understand it,