

Ontario, but the other provinces are also at a disadvantage compared with Ontario. Research, as we know, has had a tendency of following the rhythm of development but now we wonder whether it should not precede it. That is why we are now planning a number of programs, which I shall have the pleasure of announcing in the very near future and which are designed to level the disparities in the distribution of research funds.

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[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

ALLEGED ASSURANCE TO CHAIRMAN OF ONTARIO JOCKEY CLUB THAT AMENDMENT TO PERMIT OFFTRACK BETTING WILL BE PASSED

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Has he given an assurance to the chairman of the Ontario Jockey Club that legislation amending the Criminal Code to permit offtrack betting will be passed by parliament, as the chairman of the Ontario Jockey Club has said he received such an assurance from the present Minister of Justice and his predecessor?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, I would not presume to suggest what would be passed by parliament in any case. My position on offtrack betting since the introduction for first reading last session of a bill has been that I would anticipate some changes in the law, particularly in the Criminal Code, to strengthen the penalties in relation to messenger services and other activities but even that not necessarily in this session.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister arising out of the inquiry of the chairman of the Ontario Jockey Club as to whether the Prime Minister has ever visited a race course. May I ask the Prime Minister what response, if any, he has made to the inquiry of the chairman as to why the Prime Minister has not accorded representatives of that industry the opportunity of pressing the case to him directly in person so that he may question the industry on matters that the Prime Minister does not understand?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall the question being put to me by the industry whether I had visited a race track before or not. I will look it up and see.

Mr. Hees: Back to the old arrogance, Pierre. You know what it did to you last fall.

Oral Questions

GRAIN

FEED GRAIN—RETENTION OF CONTROL OF MARKETING AND PRICING BY WHEAT BOARD—ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY PRIOR TO NEXT CROP YEAR

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Can he tell the House whether, at his meeting with the heads of the Farmers' Union, the three wheat pools and Unifarm last week when the government's proposed new policy for the marketing of feed grains in Canada was discussed, he was able to give the western representatives assurances that the Canadian Wheat Board will remain in control of western feed grains as the sole marketing and pricing agency for western farmers?

● (1440)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the representatives of the groups I met last Friday that the government's decision in relation to feed grains had not yet been taken. I indicated to them, however, that I would expect to be able to show them that any new policy which was developed would be perfectly consistent with the Canadian Wheat Board protecting the interests of the farmers in western Canada.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the minister's reply that plans are not firmed up, is the minister planning any further meetings with these farm organizations and, indeed, with the provincial governments, at least, some of which, have been in contact with him? Is it his intention also to announce any changes in the present pricing and marketing policy for domestic feed grain prior to the new crop year and to bring legislation before the House?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we anticipate making the announcement before August 1. As I indicated in an earlier reply, the question of what legislation may be involved will depend on the exact nature of the decision taken, and that decision has not yet been taken. We are meeting frequently with farm organizations and their representatives and with farmers and provincial governments, and will continue to do so.

[Translation]

FEED GRAIN—REQUEST THAT EASTERN FARMERS BE PROTECTED

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

In the line of thought of the hon. member who spoke before me, I would like to put a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

At the same time, did the minister insist that the Canadian Wheat Board correct the injustices that eastern producers have been suffering for the past 30 years?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the exact object of our policy consideration is to put in place policies in relation to feed grain which will be fair to