

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. While he is looking into some of the problems that have been raised would the minister also look into a statement that has been made alleging that the federal fisheries department is polluting 56 small lakes and 17 watersheds in northern Ontario?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, we are trying to divide responsibilities in these matters. The federal government cannot be held responsible for the pollution of every creek in Canada.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance, which stems from the government's decision to give up winter works.

Could the minister tell the house whether the government, in conjunction with the provinces, intends to grant subsidies to municipalities wishing to build sewage disposal plants?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question is very simple. The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation already grants loans to municipalities for that purpose.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the minister.

Does the government intend to ask the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to increase the borrowing privileges of municipalities?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of general government policy, and of government responsibility for distributing the resources as equitably as possible between the various departments and various interests.

[English]

GRAIN**ASSISTANCE IN MOVING OF DRYING EQUIPMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the meetings which have been held since I last asked a question about the matter will the minister say what part the

federal government is now prepared to play in moving grain drying equipment from Ontario to western Canada to help the situation there?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the departments of agriculture of each of the three prairie provinces have held meetings with the grain industry—that is, with the elevator companies, producer organizations and anyone else vitally and directly interested in this problem—and have ascertained that in each of the affected areas there appears to be sufficient grain drying equipment in place now. It is a matter of making the maximum use of this equipment by co-ordinating activities so that grain dryers are in fact used in those areas where there is the greatest amount of tough and damp grain. The members of the Board of Grain Commissioners have also been attending all these meetings and I expect a report very soon to see if there are any further steps we can take to be of help.

Mr. McKinley: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister of Agriculture indicate why members of the wheat board did not appear before the standing committee on agriculture during discussion of the estimates, as had originally been intended?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I have no way, any more than the hon. member has, of knowing why the standing committee on agriculture did not call certain witnesses.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Agriculture any information with regard to the Board of Grain Commissioners allowing grain dryers to operate at country elevators, as of today?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, this is another matter that has been considered during the committee meetings. As I have said, I expect a report on the last of these meetings very soon.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Would the minister advise the house whether the government has any intention of proceeding to expand grain drying facilities at government terminals, particularly inland terminals?

Mr. Olson: There are one or two places, and perhaps Moose Jaw is one of them, where we could make use of more grain drying facilities at this time. However, there is a