

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have received no communication in this regard, to my knowledge. It may be that the Minister of Transport, under whose jurisdiction the elevators come, has received some communication.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Transport if it is correct that the Churchill terminal elevator is likely to remain empty this winter. If so, are any steps being taken to see to it that full use is made of the terminal facilities at Churchill?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): I hope, sir, that the terminal elevator at Churchill will not be empty during this winter. I am taking the most active steps I am capable of to persuade the wheat board to fill it.

Mr. Douglas: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the elevator was empty for most of last winter, can the minister assure the house that his steps will be more effective this year than last year?

Mr. Pickersgill: I cannot assure the house of that. All I can assure the house is that I will do my best. I should add that last year the elevator was kept empty at the request both of the railways and the wheat board, because it was felt last year that more wheat could be exported more expeditiously if that was done. The harbours board agreed with the greatest reluctance to what was done last year. They have not agreed this year.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What representations has the minister made? The explanation he has given is a novel one. What representations has he made, and what are the altered conditions this year that will assure that this elevator shall be used, rather than being ostracized as it was last winter by this government?

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Speaker, I can answer that question very easily because I happened to be talking to the executive vice president of the Canadian National about this matter less than two hours ago, when he was at the transport committee. Last year if box cars had been used to fill the elevator at Churchill they could not have been used to take the wheat to Vancouver where it was urgently needed. This year there are box cars available to fill the elevator in Churchill. The Canadian National is very anxious to use box cars for

[Mr. Douglas.]

that purpose. I hope the wheat board will be equally anxious to have the elevator filled.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the minister whether any thought has been given by the government to fully automating our ports for the unloading of grain from box cars to ships, as it is done in the United States, so that we can speed up the use of these box cars.

Mr. Pickersgill: A study is being made of this matter at the present time, and I hope we shall do an even better job than the United States authorities have done. I am fully conscious of the importance of modernizing our facilities for the handling of wheat. They are not adequate for the kind of crops we are now getting. This is one of the most pressing problems in this country, and the government is giving the most urgent consideration to it.

Mr. Woolliams: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

BROADCASTING**RESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister.

He seems in fine fettle following the week-end conference where the matter of bilingualism and bi-ethnic groups in Canada was discussed.

Has the Prime Minister been informed of what *Le Devoir* calls a "resounding resignation from the B.B.G.," that is the Board of Broadcast Governors? It is the resignation of Mr. Frédéric Côté who is accusing the federal body of being intellectually dishonest and taking an anti-French Canadian attitude.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member knows that he cannot read the news report while asking his question.

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, here is my question. Has the Prime Minister been informed of that resignation and would he undertake to check the accuracy of the charges made by a former employee of the Board of Broadcast Governors?

[English]

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I was made aware by the Secretary of State, who is looking into the matter.