

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Benson: If the chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Council wants to come and see me, I will be glad to see him any time.

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OIL**TAPS PROJECT—MACKENZIE VALLEY ROUTE—STUDY OF ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS**

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister who is also the senior cabinet minister from British Columbia. Will the government institute an interdepartmental study of the ecological and economic effects of the TAPS project and the alternatives to that project?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Acting Prime Minister): I would think it would be improper for us to consider making a study of the TAPS project because that could not be done without visiting Alaska, and I would think that any committee set up by us might have no right there. At present, departments are studying very thoroughly the ecological threat that might occur as a consequence of pipelines running through Canada. That is very much our concern, and a great deal of work is being undertaken there. I am quite certain that if a decision were taken to put down a major pipeline through Canada in the Mackenzie Valley area, the consequences would be sufficient for the government to bring the matter before the House.

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. It deals with the possible pipeline through the Mackenzie Valley. Can the Acting Prime Minister indicate whether he foresees the construction of this pipeline as something that could be undertaken under the auspices of the Canada Development Corporation to ensure Canadian ownership?

Mr. Laing: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be a matter for decision by the CDC when it is set up.

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GRAIN**WHEAT—AMOUNT TO BE HELD IN COMMERCIAL STORAGE**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration in his other capacity as the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Having in mind the critical cash shortage in western Canada, with its resultant effect on unemployment, does the Canadian Wheat Board intend this year to reduce by 150 million bushels, the amount of grain bought and held in commercial position at the end of last year even though space is available?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the Canadian Wheat Board to carry in commercial storage the amounts which are required to keep the system operating at peak

[Mr. Brewin.]

efficiency, and to allow it to carry grains which may be required suddenly to meet specific demands. This will involve a lowering of the amount of wheat in the storage system, and there may be an increase in the carrying of other grains as these become more important export items.

Mr. Korchinski: Will this space not be filled up even for a general election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

STABILIZATION PROGRAM—COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR FARM STORAGE

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of the fact that the government's grain marketing and stabilization program will force farmers to store much more of their grain on their farms, is it the intention of the government to provide some form of special compensation to farmers to cover these extra storage costs?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise that the stabilization plan in any way requires the farmer to store more grain on his farm, although the over-all good of the farm community may well be served by grain which used to be in more expensive commercial storage being stored on farms instead. The stabilization program involves a significant government contribution to over-all costs and, therefore, improves the financial position of the Prairie farmer. It is not necessarily worth while, however, to look to a specific storage payment system and in fact it may be better to pay the farmer in full for his effort in the price he receives for his grain, rather than give him a portion for storage and a portion for the other costs involved in its production.

WHEAT—LEVEL OF EXPORTS TO UNITED KINGDOM—DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether, in view of the discussions which took place over the weekend between officials of the Canadian government and Mr. Rippon, the representative of the United Kingdom, concerning trade between our two countries, and in view of the fact that wheat sales were one of the matters under discussion, he can inform the House if he took part in those discussions?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did take part in those discussions.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, in view of the decline in Canadian exports of wheat to the United Kingdom during the last several crop years, can the minister give an assurance to the House that Canada will be able to maintain or increase the level of its exports of wheat to the U.K. market in the years immediately ahead?