

Oral Questions

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I would define current account to include non-merchandise matters as well as merchandise matters.

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GRAIN

CONTINUATION OF GRANT TO GRAINS COUNCIL IN LIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM MEMBERSHIP BY WHEAT POOLS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the decision of the three prairie wheat pools to withdraw from membership and support of the Canada Grains Council, leaving that organization largely representative only of the private grain trade, will the minister advise the House whether it is the intention of the government to continue the grant of some \$50,000 a year to the council?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is the government's intention. The Canada Grains Council has, of course, increased its membership over the years with other producer organizations. In addition, at the time the pools indicated to me their intention to withdraw they also indicated their willingness to continue working with the council on very important committees in order that their points of views and that of the producers would be represented there.

POSSIBILITY OF RESTRUCTURING OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary in connection with the grain trade. Has the minister been approached by farm organizations such as the Palliser Wheat Growers' Association to restructure the advisory committee to the Canadian Wheat Board in order to give more representation to the private grain trade and, if so, can he tell the House what the government's position is in respect of the advisory committee?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Palliser Wheat Growers' Association and some other groups have indicated a desire to review the make-up of the Wheat Board advisory committee, but not to give additional representation to the grain trade, private or otherwise. Indeed, their representations have been in the direction that representatives of the grain trade ought not to be on the advisory committee and that we ought to find a way to have more direct producer representation on it.

PROVISION OF CARS BY RAILWAYS TO TRANSPORT WHEAT

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that at this time many country elevators are plugged and there is a lack of roll-

[Mr. Hellyer.]

ing stock, can the minister inform the House of any action to alleviate this very urgent problem?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to the House the other day, at a meeting last Sunday with the Wheat Board I was informed there were still some places where congestion was serious, particularly in the region represented by the hon. member for Assiniboia. The Wheat Board has taken special steps to see that cars to move the grain from that area will be going there in very large numbers, so I think the situation will be alleviated fairly shortly.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN IN ARMS CACHE

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence.

Since the Quebec police recently found a cache of firearms in which there was an anti-aircraft gun, could the minister tell us if this weapon comes from a Canadian Forces Base? In the affirmative, could he say how many of these weapons have been reported missing by military authorities?

[English]

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would have to have information about the weapon before I could say where it originated.

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SPORTS

MONTREAL OLYMPIC GAMES, 1976—MINISTER HAVING JURISDICTION—REPLY TO STAMP, COIN AND LOTTERY SCHEME PROPOSED BY COMMITTEE

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister please tell the House whether in fact the subject of the Olympic Games has been passed from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, under whose jurisdiction the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act is administered, and, if so, why and to whom has it been passed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Perhaps I can be helpful, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the present situation. I cannot recall that it was under the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Perhaps in the previous parliament it was, but certainly when this cabinet was formed at the time this parliament was elected the jurisdiction was put under the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, and it rests there now.

Mr. Stanfield: "Rests" is right.