

that in cases of this kind we have bent over backward's to be as fair and compassionate as possible.

All the appeal procedures are in place. I think the gentleman and his counsel should be given access to them, and not be hampered or hindered in any way. With regard to whatever compassion is needed in this case to lengthen the time, I do not think there will be any difficulty.

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## AGRICULTURE

### STABILIZATION PAYMENTS TO POTATO GROWERS

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I ask him once again whether he will consider changing his previous statements to the effect that no stabilization payments would be made to potato growers until the end of the current marketing season. This is the seventh time I have risen in my place and asked this question of the Minister of Agriculture.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I said to the hon. member the other day that we would follow historic patterns. Historic patterns show that we have made interim payments, and I have instructed the stabilization board to do so for eastern Canada.

### REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR WHITE BEAN GROWERS

**Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Some time ago, at a meeting, the minister suggested that there would be some federal assistance for white bean producers because of the disastrous weather of last year and the lower price. Can the minister advise us if a definite decision has been made in that regard and what form of assistance will be provided?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I do not remember exactly what I said to the hon. member, but those producers did receive about \$10 million in assistance from crop insurance programs. The white bean board has applied for stabilization, and that is under consideration by the stabilization board at the present time.

**Mr. McKinley:** Mr. Speaker, producers are now in the process of deciding what crops to plant in 1978. The minister's decision in this regard might have some bearing on those plans. I wonder if a definite decision could be given on this matter quite soon.

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I met a group of white bean producers in the hon. member's area the other night. I gather that those producers are ready to go ahead and plant their acreages. Many of them have been compensated under crop insurance programs. There was low crop production last year because of the terrible catastrophe which took place, which was very wet weather. It was impossible in some areas to

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harvest any of the crop. In most areas about 90 per cent of it was left in the fields.

Producers are now deciding whether they are going to plant. That will be a decision for the producers themselves, but I gather from talking to them that most of them will be planting sizeable white bean acreages this year because we are considering stabilization, and also because slightly over 77 per cent of the producers had crop insurance.

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## CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

### PROGRAM TO ENABLE GRAIN ELEVATORS TO BE CLEARED

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Elevators in the Red River Valley are plugged because we have not received the number of rail cars to which we are entitled, even though we have received clearance through the block system. In view of the extensive flooding which is taking place in the Red River Valley south of the forty-ninth parallel, can the minister assure us that the special permits which have been issued in the past will be issued again? Farmers have been able in the past to move grain which might have been flood prone. Grain is now in storage. Will the minister announce a program so that these elevators can be cleared and so that grain can be moved before flood conditions arrive in Manitoba in approximately ten days' time?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member knows that these arrangements are ordinarily made by the Canadian Wheat Board and not by the government. I will be very glad to discuss this matter with the board, and I know its usually sympathetic ear will be turned to these representations.

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## AGRICULTURE

### GOVERNMENT DECISION ON TARIFF RECOMMENDATIONS AT GATT

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Last week Ambassador Warren, Canada's chief spokesman at the GATT negotiations in Geneva, made a statement in Winnipeg in which he said, "The Tariff Board recommendations, many of which propose higher protection than now afforded, have been under careful consideration by the government, and I understand that decisions may be expected shortly".

Since we are getting well into the final stages of the GATT negotiations, and since agriculture is being discussed at Geneva, can the minister indicate whether the government has made a decision on tariff recommendations and, if so, would the minister outline briefly what the situation is?