

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Did Canada during the discussions bring in proposals with regard to renegotiating price differentials as they presently exist between the different qualities of wheat in the different countries?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, we did not discuss this in detail because we had more urgent matters to discuss.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister had more urgent matters to discuss, and so many bushels of Canadian wheat lie piled up on the prairies.

Mr. Pepin: I am afraid the understanding of the hon. member for Prince Albert is incorrect. We had more urgent matters to discuss in the sense that we wanted to bring about, first of all, co-operation. What needs to be done later will be done later.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Hees: That is a very nice statement. Brilliant.

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. With respect to obtaining co-operation, did the Canadian delegation succeed—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I invite hon. members to allow the Chair and other hon. members to hear the question the hon. member is trying to put.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, did the Canadian delegation succeed in obtaining the co-operation of the United States authorities to the extent that a useful approach will be made toward negotiations going on in London under the auspices of the International Wheat Council? Are those negotiations being conducted with a view to stabilizing prices under the International Grains Arrangement?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs expressed the hope that such a development would take place. Knowing how well informed he is, I have every reason to believe that his hopes will be met.

Mr. Baldwin: That is not what happened in Stockholm.

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. So that there is no misunderstanding, are we correct in assuming that although the ministers of the two governments agreed to continue discussions, there was in fact no agreement as to the prices at which these grains would be maintained?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the agreement was that they would be maintained at the highest possible price.

GRAIN**WHEAT—BOX CAR SHORTAGE—REQUEST FOR EXTENDED GRAIN YEAR**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is more or less a related question and arises from the statement made by the minister about the position of present producers. Because of the present box car shortage and in view of climatic and other circumstances which prevented grain deliveries this spring, will the minister authorize an extension of the current grain year until such time as all delivery points are at least on a five bushel quota. This matter has been raised in this house time and time again, Mr. Speaker. I therefore ask whether the minister will assure grain producers that time for the five bushel delivery will be allowed before the cut off date is enforced by the Canadian Wheat Board?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have recently consulted the Wheat Board on that situation. The quota situation has been improving steadily in recent days and I think the latest figures will indicate to my hon. friend how close we are getting in most instances to the five bushel quota level.

Mr. McIntosh: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister to disregard the figures he has alluded to and obtain information from members representing grain growing constituencies. He can learn accurate figures that way. He will also learn that it is almost impossible at present for Canadian Pacific and Canadian National to bring box cars into certain areas in order to take out the wheat the minister has promised will be taken out. Some areas have delivered one bushel less than their quota, in fact. If the goals that have been set are to be realized something must be done right away. Will the minister look into the situation and see what can be done.