

*Oral Questions***PUBLIC SERVICE****WAGE OFFER TO GRAIN INSPECTORS AT VANCOUVER**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Has Treasury Board made any further offer to its own employees, the grain inspectors at Vancouver, after the rejection of the offer of 6 per cent for 18 months and 5 per cent for the following year?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): The negotiations are going on. There have been some meetings between the parties and it would not be opportune for the minister to intervene at this time.

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[*English*]

GRAIN**REQUEST FOR FINAL PAYMENTS IMMEDIATELY—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. As many young farmers on the prairies face substantial payments on their land and equipment, as these liabilities bear a heavy rate of interest and as many other farmers are short of cash and finding it difficult to meet their commitments, would the minister consider instructing the Wheat Board to issue final payments for the 1973-74 crop year immediately and permit those farmers in need of money to meet their commitments and those farmers who have no immediate need for cash to defer their income until 1975?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, that action is hardly possible at present. The Wheat Board has not yet closed the accounts which are involved, and the closing of accounts and accounting is a requirement which must be met before payments can be made. The payments will be made immediately after January 1. In the meantime, cash advances are available. There is a bill now before Parliament for increasing the limit on cash advances so that cash may be available to farmers, in advance of delivery of grain, interest free.

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URBAN AFFAIRS**LAND ASSEMBLY—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO ASSIST
MUNICIPALITIES RETAIN GREEN SPACES**

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Can the minister advise the House whether there is at present any government program whereby the federal government can assist municipalities to retain existing green space, presently privately owned, before it is lost to development?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there are programs of land assembly

[*Mr. Richardson.*]

which are part of the plan. The inclusion of green space in an integrated plan would be a desirable part of any such program.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. In view of Liberal campaign promises to fight for federal aid for the retention of green space in Vancouver, I am referring specifically to the Langara lands, can the minister advise whether he has had any requests for assistance, in this case from members of the Liberal party in Vancouver?

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the specific case. I speak for Liberals as well as non Liberals and do not differentiate on those grounds.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: I do not know of a special case, but I speak with people, Liberal or non-Liberal; I do not differentiate on that basis. I have been in Vancouver and have spoken to the mayor. We are, as was my predecessor, very much concerned about and interested in the development of the Greater Vancouver Regional Development Plan. My ministry is working on that plan very closely with officials of the city, so that the specific case referred to will come within the over-all plan. In this case we see almost a classic example of co-operation between different levels of government in one of the most beautiful cities in Canada, if not North America.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

**WEST COAST GRAIN HANDLING OPERATIONS ACT,
1974****MEASURE TO SECURE THE RESUMPTION OF OPERATIONS**

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour) moved that Bill C-12, to provide for the resumption of grain handling operations on the west coast of Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration.

He said: Mr. Speaker, as members of this House are aware, the bill now before us represents the government's legislative proposals respecting the west coast grain handling dispute. Before examining these proposals it would be appropriate for me to refer to the chronology of events in this dispute. Firstly, however, I must refer to the parties directly involved: these are the Alberta Wheat Pool, Pacific Elevators Limited, Burrard Terminals Limited, United Grain Growers Limited, the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, and the Grain Workers Union local No. 333. The five existing collective agreements, which cover approximately 500 grain elevator employees, expired on November 30 of last year. Members will note that the employees have thus been without any improvement in their terms of employment for some ten months.