

Inquiries of the Ministry

directed a question to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development, and it became clear on reading the reply of the minister that he had not understood the import of my question. I should therefore like to ask him now whether the intention of the Atlantic Development Board to bring forward a plan for the economic development of the Atlantic provinces this year has been abandoned. I think the minister will recall that the board was initially charged with the responsibility of arriving at a development strategy for the region, and this has not yet been done.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I know that the Atlantic Development Board is considering a long term program for the development of the Maritime provinces. That board has done a great deal for the Maritime provinces. The program is not ready yet and, therefore, has not been submitted to us. We expect to receive it one of these days—I do not know when—but in the meantime since there will be a change in departmental responsibilities, we will no doubt take this work into consideration.

[English]

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I should like to direct to the Minister of Transport. In view of the uncertainty expressed by the minister in charge of regional matters, can the minister give maritimers some assurance that individual programs that might normally fit into the context of his colleague's plan will be brought on a little more quickly? Could he take some steps to make sure this matter is brought on at an early stage?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that there will be maximum co-operation between the two departments concerned.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Would the minister inform the house as soon as possible when he expects to receive such a plan from the Atlantic Development Board?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, I can try to find out when, but one thing is certain, as soon as we receive reports from the Atlantic Development Board we shall be glad to

[Mr. Stanfield.]

have them published and make them available not only to the members of this house but also to the general public.

[English]

[Later:]

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, this might sound like a technical question, but I can assure you it is an important one. I address it to the minister responsible for forestry and regional development. When the minister refers to the maritime region, does he really mean the Atlantic region? This mistake has been made on a number of occasions, but there is a very sharp distinction between the Atlantic region and the maritime region. Would the minister bear this in mind in future statements?

AGRICULTURE

EQUALIZATION OF QUOTAS—MOVEMENT OF DAMP GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. What measures have been taken by the Canadian Wheat Board to equalize the quotas in the three prairie provinces? Also, what measures have been taken to give priority through the railway companies to the allocation of box cars for the movement of damp grain from shipping points that are still on units?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have already given a reply to the house concerning the initiatives that have been taken in this matter by the wheat board. The board is doing some of what my hon. friend suggests it should be doing.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Does not the Canadian Wheat Board have any authority to set special quotas, such as might be required for damp grain?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I understand they do have, but the Minister without Portfolio, who was in touch with the wheat board this morning, has reported to me that the wheat board are finding out how much tough and damp grain there is at the moment, and that they are temporarily stopping the shipment of dry grain while checking into this.