

lines, particularly in Manitoba, are experiencing long delays in receiving boxcars for grain deliveries, and as it is only seven weeks until the end of the crop year, what guarantee can the minister give the farmers of these areas that these delivery points will receive the necessary cars to fill quotas before July 31?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, no absolute guarantee is possible. The hon. member knows that the Canadian Wheat Board makes every possible effort to program cars to collect grain in such a way as to give delivery opportunities as equitably as possible to all producers. If, of course, the types of grain are not available in certain areas, cars will go to other places. At the present time there is a great deal of space generally in country elevators. As of early June there was space for seven million bushels more than at the same time a year ago. A very, very large volume of grain came in during the last month of the crop year.

**Mr. Stewart (Marquette):** Many farmers feel the railways are deliberately ignoring these lines, thereby lowering the total yearly deliveries and forcing their closure because of reduced deliveries. What guarantee can the minister give that he will not allow this to happen, and that he will protect these branch lines?

● (1450)

**Mr. Lang:** Essentially, Mr. Speaker, that is one of the myths which a number of people have picked up at the instance, particularly, of hon. members opposite. The placing of cars is very largely the responsibility of the Canadian Wheat Board. Then the individual elevator companies can choose as between elevators within their blocks. The railway essentially responds by placing cars where there is the possibility of moving cars to those positions.

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### AIRPORTS

#### HAY RIVER, N.W.T.—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CORRECT UNSAFE CONDITION OF AIRPORT

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the dangerous condition the Hay River airport is presently in, does he realize that the airport is still being used though it is not in very good shape, and what does he plan to do about it?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I did not get the first part of the question; would the hon. member please repeat it?

**Mr. Firth:** My question is for the Minister of Transport, of which I have given him notice. May I ask the minister whether he is aware of the fact that the Hay River airport in the Northwest Territories is not in very good shape and is, as a matter of fact, dangerous? What does the minister intend to do about the airport? Is he going to wait for an accident first, or what?

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that I did not receive the notice to which the hon. member is referring.

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### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EXECUTOR OF ESTATE OF WOMAN KILLED IN B.C. PENITENTIARY

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Solicitor General, if there is one; otherwise, to the Acting Prime Minister. Has the Solicitor General received a telegram from Mr. Robert Eades, a lawyer in Vancouver who is the executor of the estate of Mary Steinhauser, the classification officer recently killed in the British Columbia penitentiary, wherein he requests financial assistance so that the deceased may be represented at the inquiry to be headed by Mr. Justice Farris; and will the government consider this matter so that the financial burden will not fall upon Miss Steinhauser's parents, who are both old age pensioners?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, this communication has not yet been brought to our personal attention, but we will certainly look at the matter.

#### POSITION OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING AMENDMENT OF BAIL REFORM ACT

**Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice arising from the concern on the part of many Canadians that the government is not acting forcefully to protect them from violent crime. In light of the disclosure today by an officer of the metropolitan Toronto police force that 17 people who have been charged with murder and are awaiting trial are out on bail in metropolitan Toronto alone, is the government satisfied that the Bail Reform Act is working properly, or does the government intend to amend the act to make sure that people awaiting trial on murder charges are not allowed back on to the streets?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we are not satisfied that the bail law is working perfectly in every respect; therefore, I confirm our intention to introduce amendments to the bail provisions in the series of Criminal Code amendments expected before long. However, these are not designed to change the general purpose of the act, which is to ensure that those who are charged but not convicted are not detained unless in a general way it is necessary to assure their presence at trial or to assure the safety of the public. We do propose to make more clear the power of judges, who at this point may have doubted it, to protect the public interest.

**Mr. Beatty:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister would be more specific. May I ask him specifically whether the amendments to the act would no longer permit it to be the case that people charged with