

Inquiries of the Ministry

I should like to point out to the house that the governments of the three prairie provinces, including the government of Saskatchewan, have come out in support of the policy that we have taken on for a year's trial, and that the farm organizations also are writing me and giving assurance that they are behind us in what we are trying to do.

Mr. Argue: I should like to ask the minister whether it has been brought to his attention that a delegate body of the federated co-operatives has come out as being emphatically opposed to the government policy changing the former policy of their management.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question and answers both appear to be descending, shall I say, from the level of the factual to that of the argumentative, and I think I should not allow that second supplementary question.

Mr. E. W. Brunsden (Medicine Hat): I should like to ask the minister whether he has received from bona fide grain producers in western Canada one complaint with respect to this policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member, equally with the hon. member for Assiniboia seems to be more interested in giving information than in obtaining it.

(Translation):

INQUIRY AS TO DIFFERENCE IN GRAIN PRICES PAID BY EASTERN FARMERS AND WESTERN MILLS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Samuel Boulanger (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Is the minister aware of the fact that prices paid by eastern farmers for grain are higher than those paid by western mills, and that, therefore, there is some discrimination detrimental to our eastern farmers?

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the question of the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska is really an argumentative one. He has put forth a point of view under the guise of asking whether the minister is aware of something. It seems to me that is not in accordance with the proper practice on orders of the day.

HOUSING

INQUIRY AS TO AMOUNT OF HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Garland (Nipissing): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of

Labour. Under the authority of the minister, newspaper advertisements are appearing across the country urging Canadians to apply to Canadian banks now for loans for home improvements. I wonder whether the minister would care to comment on the response he has had to date in connection with this campaign. Also, can the minister assure the house that the banks are co-operating fully in this regard?

Hon. Michael Starr (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the co-operation of the banks rests within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Finance. Our effort in this field is to promote and bring to the attention of the people of this country that they have the facilities of the banks available to obtain home improvements loans. By doing this we hope to bring about an activity in this field that will help to give employment to Canadians during this winter. It is difficult to ascertain or to get some idea as to the number of jobs that will be created. Our role in this matter is to promote this type of activity.

Mr. Garland: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder, in view of the absence of the Minister of Finance and in view of what the Minister of Labour has said, whether the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance would care to comment on the degree of co-operation the banks are giving in this regard.

Mr. Richard A. Bell (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is anything to be usefully added to what the Minister of Labour has said.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

OTTAWA—CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture arising out of the very interesting statement attributed to him, that the minister was not convinced that the 12-storey Department of Agriculture headquarters on the dominion experimental farm, built of glass, steel and aluminum, would have adequate air conditioning.

My question is this. Is the government going forward with the construction of this large building, since it has been the policy of the government, in the past at any rate, to reserve the experimental farm for its original purposes and not use any part of it for buildings of this type?