

Inquiries of the Ministry

ALLOCATION OF BOXCARS TO INCREASE STOCKS AT VANCOUVER

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question along the lines of the previous question. In view of the continuing low level of wheat stocks in store at west coast terminals, can the minister assure us that the volume of grain moved and the allocation of boxcars by the two railroads will be such as to correct this intolerable situation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the railroads have assured us that they will make every effort to correct the grain situation in Vancouver as soon as it is physically possible to do so. I am satisfied that it is not the shortage of cars or shortage of motive power which is the limiting factor at the moment but, rather, the very unusual and severe snow slide conditions in the Rocky Mountains which have prevented these rail facilities from carrying adequate amounts of grain to Vancouver.

Mr. Fairweather: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members wish to ask supplementaries. I hope that they will be brief supplementaries. I will try to recognize as many hon. members as possible. I now recognize the hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

DOMESTIC DELIVERIES FOR FEED—EFFECT OF USE OF UNIT TRAINS FOR EXPORT MOVEMENT

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, although I know nothing about snow slides in British Columbia, I have a domestic concern and that is domestic deliveries of feed grain. Can we be assured that the government has explored ways of improving rail deliveries of feed grain within the country; also, will the loading of unit trains for export be carried out in such a manner as not to interfere with the regular and orderly deliveries of feed grain for Canadian users?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, when we had discussions about the exceptional movement of grain by unit train to points east for export, and we were given assurances by the railroads that the regular movement of grain could be taken care of.

TAKEOVER OF FEDERAL ELEVATORS BY POOLS—ALLOCATION OF BOXCARS ASSIGNED TO FEDERAL—REPLY TO UNITED GRAIN GROWERS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the proposed takeover of Federal grain facilities tomorrow by certain pools, and since the boxcar allocation which might have been assigned to Federal is also to be turned over to the pools, which allocation has not been earned by the pool but has been bought, would the minister consider allocating the normal Federal allocation to all other existing train elevators on a proportionate basis of the shipments made over the past year?

[Mr. Lang.]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the allocation of boxcars is made according to the Bracken formula. This is a self-adjusting formula, and works over a period of time. There are special problems which arise when congestion results, despite the application of that formula. Some steps are under way to see if special measures can or should be taken to deal with that congestion problem.

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the hon. member for Mackenzie for a second supplementary, but we must move on. The hon. member was not on my list of those who did not ask questions yesterday. However, I know the matter is important and he may ask his supplementary question.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, does the minister intend to reply to the United Grain Growers in regard to this matter?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have replied to the United Grain Growers on this subject.

• (1600)

LOSSES RESULTING FROM DEMURRAGE CHARGES ON BOATS AT VANCOUVER—REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): I would like to direct a supplementary question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact that the demurrage charges on boats that are waiting in the harbour of Vancouver are running between \$3,400 and \$6,000 per day per boat, as well as the fact and the consequence that this money will have to be paid by the Canadian Wheat Board and, therefore, taken off the farmer's grain payment, does the minister or his government have any plans to reimburse the Canadian Wheat Board for moneys that will be lost through the recent transportation difficulties we have experienced?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will return to the subject in a moment. The hon. member for Regina East and other hon. members are anxious to ask further supplementaries, but in fairness to other members the Chair will first recognize the hon. member for Lotbinière.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS—PROPOSED MEASURES

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

I would like to know whether he has received any criticism, representations or requests relating to the problem raised by delayed unemployment insurance checks and whether he has ordered an investigation or the adoption of steps to expedite those checks.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this problem with the minister con-