

Oral Questions

Mr. Korchinski: Is there any use growing grain this year at all?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: How much?

POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SHIPMENTS THROUGH UNITED STATES IN VIEW OF STRIKE AT VANCOUVER

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the severe hardship to western farmers in the agricultural community, I would like to ask him whether his department has investigated making these shipments by way of the United States until such time as the problems in Canada are settled, and if not, why not?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we have frequently considered many contingency plans. It happens, however, that the ordinary system of shipping Canadian wheat out of the west coast is to move it in an uncleaned condition to the terminals and clean it there. The typical terminals which might be available in the United States do not have cleaning capacity, and therefore it is not a practical suggestion.

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MANPOWER

FARM LABOUR—AVAILABILITY OF OFFSHORE WORKERS IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT POLICY GIVING PRIORITY TO CANADIANS

Mr. J. Larry Condon (Middlesex-London-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Is the minister aware of the dilemma farmers are facing because of the government policy of hiring Canadian workers before offshore workers and Mexican help? If so, can he give hon. members of this House some direction in how manpower centres can make these offshore workers available to farmers since Canadians will not work in these areas?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, with respect, I think the premise is not totally correct. We are certainly directing our attention to the priority of searching for Canadians available for work in Canada before we enlist the services of people from other countries. This program should be very well known to farmers in southern Ontario because of the many releases which have been made and the many consultations we have had. We can assure them that there will be labour, but we are determined to search and find Canadians first as the first priority before we resort to bringing in offshore workers.

[Mr. Lang.]

SPORTS

HOCKEY—SUGGESTION AMATEUR ASSOCIATIONS NOT SIGN CHILDREN TO CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the minister was approached last year with respect to the case of 16 year old Michael Laffrade of Toronto who was prevented from playing hockey because he had signed a contract with an amateur team, and in view of the fact that the minister had expressed outrage and incredulity at the effects of that contract, and in view of the fact that the minister on the program "Ombudsman" had promised to speak to the CAHA about this situation, would he inform the House if he has contacted the CAHA and instructed it and its affiliated bodies to cease and desist from forcing children to sign contracts or forms which restrict their opportunities for playing hockey?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I let the program "Ombudsman" know that I should be pleased to give them all appropriate information on this subject. I already appeared on this program last year and I find rather astonishing the kind of remark that was made recently on it. I already got in touch with the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association but unfortunately, and contrarily to what the hon. member is suggesting in his question, I am not in a position to give orders to a private organization such as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association.

[English]

Mr. Rodriguez: In view of the fact that many more cases similar to that of Michael Laffrade have surfaced this winter, will the minister inform the House as to what steps he is prepared to take to ensure that children do not become embroiled in legal disputes in the pursuit of voluntarily playing amateur sports in this country?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, all I can recommend to the hon. member is that he read the British North America Act where he will find that the responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments in this area are clearly defined.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: A final supplementary and then I will see the hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a question of privilege.

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COMPETITION ACT

SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF PROVISION TO ENSURE CHILDREN NOT RESTRICTED IN PARTICIPATING IN AMATEUR SPORTS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the reluctance of the Minister of National Health and Welfare to deal with this situation in a satisfactory fashion, will