

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that fortunately, from my point of view, there have been a number of changes in the heads of governments in the different provinces since then, will the Prime Minister not now fix a definite time to consult with the provinces on this matter, perhaps with a different and happier result?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly welcome the suggestion. I will wait a few more months to ensure there are no further changes in governments and, if possible, I will perhaps in a discreet way initiate the consultation he has suggested.

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**TRANSPORT****REQUEST THAT MINISTER INTERVENE TO PREVENT RAILWAY FREIGHT RATE INCREASE ON OKANAGAN FRUIT**

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact he restated in the House the day before yesterday the 18-month freight rate freeze accepted by the railways, and in light of the fact the railways have announced an 11 cents per hundred weight increase in freight rates on fruit from the Okanagan to Toronto and Montreal effective October 1, will the minister order the railways to withdraw this rate increase?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot say anything more than what I already said to the House yesterday or the day before. What I asked the railways to do was to avoid increasing the normal rates, but as far as agreed rates and certain other rates are concerned it was up to the parties to decide.

**Mr. Whittaker:** Mr. Speaker, I might say that this is a normal rate, not an agreed rate. Will the minister now tell us what types of freight rates and commodities are affected by the freeze, and what percentage of the total freight traffic this represents?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member puts the question that way I think he is distorting what I said. I said I was asking the railways not to increase the rates. I do not personally have the power to make a decree freezing freight rates. According to the law, and this act was adopted by the House in 1967, the railways are free to increase freight rates and to justify them to the Canadian Transport Commission. All I did was to ask the railways not to increase the normal rates.

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**GRAIN****PRICE AT WHICH FEED GRAIN WILL BE SOLD TO EASTERN CANADA**

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who is in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. I understand he made an announcement today concerning the Agricultural

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Products Board price for feed grain in western Canada. I also understand he is trying to establish a monitored weighted average price for feed grain being sold in western Canada. Can he inform the House and the country at which level feed grain barley will be sold to eastern Canada? Will it be the Agricultural Products Board price or the average weighted price which he is trying to determine?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to confirm the policy as announced.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** It would be nice to have it announced in the House.

**Mr. Lang:** The selling price in Canada will be based on the determined off-board price. The purpose of the Agricultural Products Board price is to ensure that no barley or oats is moving at prices below that level.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I understand the price will be the monitored weighted average price which he is attempting to determine, but who will make up the loss? Let us suppose no barley is bought by the Agricultural Products Board and the Wheat Board has to turn over the grain to it. Who will make up the loss represented by the difference between that price and the international price that farmers may receive when they get their final payments?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, again I welcome the opportunity to clarify for the hon. member the fact that the Agricultural Products Board will not be selling feed grains to anyone in Canada. The Canadian Wheat Board will continue to sell feed grains to the Canadian market on the basis of the price at which non-board grains are trading in the Prairie region. The grain obtained by the Agricultural Products Board, at a price which we are telling the farmers we think is still too low considering the price available from the Canadian Wheat Board, will be stored unless the Canadian Wheat Board needs and wants it for its own purposes.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Who makes up the difference?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member on a final supplementary, and then the hon. member for Charlevoix.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, can the country and the House assume that the loss or shortage will come out of the barley pool in the final accounting of the Wheat Board?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the question of the price at which barley or oats is in fact traded in Canada depends on the price at which farmers in the Prairie region are willing to sell, and that will be the price to be used as the basis for sales elsewhere.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** You did not answer the question. Who makes up the loss? The farmers ought to line you up and shoot you when you go out there.