

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE**

WHEAT—DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S.S.R.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Is the Canadian Wheat Board presently carrying on discussions with the U.S.S.R. and, if so, where are these talks being held?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will not discuss negotiations of this sort but I am willing to report to the House that the Chief Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board are at present in Moscow.

OILSEEDS—FILLING OF EXPORT COMMITMENTS

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary or related question for the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan. In view of the interest shown by some of Canada's customer countries in our oilseed stocks, can he assure this House and the country that there is an adequate stock of these seeds in forward positions to fill all current export commitments in respect of these grains?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this is so but I will certainly check again to see whether there have been any recent indications of demands which could exceed amounts available. I will try to assure that appropriate stocks are in position.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REMOVAL FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OF MEMBER SITTING AS INDEPENDENT

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. I should like to say first of all that this is a most delicate question and one which I find difficult to put into words. May I ask the Prime Minister, as Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Liberal Party which form the government, if it is his view that one who has experience and knowledge should be removed from a committee or from a position of responsibility on that committee because he has changed his allegiance and sits as an independent?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Churchill.

[Mr. Speaker.]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

MORTALITY RATE—POLICY RESPECTING HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the very disturbing revelations contained in the report on the high mortality rate among our Indian people, will the minister use his good offices to implore his cabinet colleagues to reconsider the present policy of shelving plans for the hospitals which were to have been constructed adjacent to or in these Indian communities?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am not aware of any such policy, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

FINANCE

ACTION TO REDUCE INTEREST RATES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker, I have faith in you to judge whether our questions are childish or not. In fact, it is not up to the Prime Minister to rule on the merits of a question, especially in an arrogant manner.

As the Minister of Finance stated yesterday that the interest rate was too high in Canada, has the Prime Minister any suggestions to offer for the purpose of reducing it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, if we succeed in stopping inflation.

[English]

TRADE

POTASH—CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SASKATCHEWAN REGULATIONS

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of reports purporting to give the federal government's view of the recently announced Saskatchewan potash regulations, is the minister now able to inform the House of the government's view on the constitutionality of these regulations?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Comments were made by the press saying that this government was in agreement with the regulations recently announced by the government of Saskatchewan. I want to say that these views referred