

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—  
REPLACEMENT OF QUOTA PROVISIONS

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that all of the major farm organizations have declined to give their support to operation LIFT, is the minister considering any major revisions to the plan as originally announced and, in particular, is he considering dropping the quota provisions as he originally announced them in favour of some other more acceptable type of plan?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** The original allegation by the hon. member, as usual, is completely without foundation. Indeed, most farm organizations consulted supported the plan and its purposes. There seems to be some exception in respect of the National Farmers' Union whose initial support was not followed up with any consistency later.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We seem to be getting into the area of debate. The hon. member for Battle River will be allowed a supplementary and then the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Edmonton West.

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—  
INCREASE IN PRICE OF GRASS AND  
FORAGE SEED

**Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether he or the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has looked into the fact that the price of grass and forage seed has doubled since the initiation of the LIFT program?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Mr. Speaker, we have not taken a specific look at the exact nature of what has happened to prices. I presume the hon. member is not suggesting that the \$10 per acre offered in respect of conversion of land into forage was rather too high and thus has encouraged a move in the price of grass seed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are a number of members who are seeking an opportunity to ask supplementary questions on this subject. The Chair will attempt to return to the hon. member for Battle River and the hon. member for Regina East in a moment. For the time being the hon. member for Edmonton West has the floor.

22218—46j

IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CARIB-  
BEAN COUNTRIES—SUBSTITUTION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR SUGAR AGREEMENT

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs either in his ministerial capacity or as Acting Prime Minister. In light of the replies given by the minister yesterday to my colleagues from Calgary Centre and Fundy-Royal concerning the unilateral abrogation by Canada of the 29 cent rebate on sugar and in view of the conditions which exist today in Trinidad and other Caribbean islands, would the minister undertake to make a full statement in the House outlining the position of the government, what it has done and what it proposes to do?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make clear, as I did yesterday, that there is no connection whatever between the troubles in Trinidad and any action by the Canadian government. Second, since there seems to be some misunderstanding, not as a result of what I said yesterday but as a result of a statement in the press, I should like to say that there was no agreement between Canada and the islands of the Caribbean concerning the rebate of the sugar duty. It was a unilateral action on our part to pay the rebate and it was a unilateral action by which it was withdrawn.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** In light of the reaction of the countries concerned, which is reported to be negative, and in view of the fact that Canada has a vital stake in promoting trade and relations in this area, surely the minister must understand that there should be a clarifying statement so that we can all get our views on the record in respect of this vital subject.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is advancing an argument for the consideration of the minister. I do not think it can be considered to be in the form of a question.

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does the minister consider it appropriate for Canada in conducting an aid program not to consult the country or countries being assisted when it proposes to make a change in the form of the assistance?