

involved now in discussions with the provinces as to cost-sharing arrangements under both our cost-sharing health programs, medicare and hospitalization, which were discussed at the recent health ministers conference. The over-all objective is to permit us to meet in a financial way the priorities as the provinces see them in the health field and still protect portability and national standards.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Can the minister say what attention the government is giving to the recommendation that there be facilities for the training of dental auxiliaries to assist in coping with the problem of providing adequate dental care?

Mr. Munro: Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of policy we are very much in favour of this development which will have a considerable impact in terms of reducing costs. There is considerable sympathy for this type of development within the provinces, and we will be meeting to discuss how best it can be accomplished.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—RECOMMENDATION RESPECTING PLANTING

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): I direct my question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Since the Soviet Union is emerging as a major exporter of wheat, is the government still advocating the planting of an estimated 20 million acres of wheat in western Canada?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The 20 million acres to which the hon. member refers is presumably the figure in the document which was tabled in the House in late October. It was indicated at that time that, with this quantity of wheat, only a small decrease would likely occur in the inventory of wheat in Canada, that we would really have enough or more than enough, so that fewer acres than that would certainly do no harm and other crops such as barley could be planted. The fact of the Soviet Union being in the wheat business in a big way is really not anything new.

Mr. Murta: With a good portion of the acreage that was planted to wheat going into summerfallow, is there not a concern on the part of the government that with above average yields we might overproduce for our expected markets and end up with another large surplus?

WHEAT—BASIS OF INITIAL PRICE TO FARMERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggart): My question is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. As the new international wheat agreement to which he referred today in his tabled statement contains no pricing provisions, can he assure the House that the initial price for wheat to the farmer will continue to be based on the levels in the present International Grains Arrangement in the coming crop year?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Any indication about initial prices will be made shortly. The International Grains Arrangement prices have not been effective matters in relation to pricing for some time. Of course the new agreement does contain provisions both for discussion among the participants in case of fluctuations of price in order to maintain stability and also a kind of watching brief in order to start discussions on price whenever that seems appropriate.

Mr. Gleave: Since the minister has just informed the House that the new agreement provides for examination of the price structure while at the same time no minimum price is set out, can he tell the House whether there is any provision for the enforcement of any kind of price structure under the new agreement? Are there any benchmark marks in the agreement about which farmers can feel confident?

Mr. Lang: There are no pricing provisions setting down firm prices in the agreement which has been signed. The agreement indicates a procedure for co-operation with regard to pricing, and indicates that the question of when to negotiate more firm price provisions will be kept under observation.

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CITIZENSHIP

INVESTIGATION OF STATEMENTS BY SANDOR EMERICH BANDY, BRANCH EMPLOYEE

Mr. Robert Borrie (Prince George-Peace River): My question is directed to the minister responsible for citizenship. Could the minister advise the House of the results of his inquiry into the actions and some of the statements of Mr. Bandy who is employed by the citizenship branch in Vancouver?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Inquiries are being made of the people with whom Mr. Bandy has been working in gathering information on behalf of the Citizenship Branch. There are no results of that inquiry yet which would lead me to suggest that any action is warranted at this time.

Mr. Paul St. Pierre (Coast-Chilcotin): In view of the statement that Mr. Bandy made publicly that if the government had considered the suffering of the unemployed and poor in Quebec in 1969 there would have been no FLQ in 1970, was he authorized as he indicated in the radio broadcast, to speak as a representative of the federal government?

Mr. Stanbury: Of course not.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.