Inquiries of the Ministry

give such information. If I insisted on getting it today it is because I wanted to put an end to the kind of questioning which was carried on yesterday and which is not in the best interest of the producers of the west.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, having received that motherly advice from the hon. gentleman I should like to ask him what he is going to do to help the western farmers, in view of their loss of $80 million income?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Selkirk.

Mr. Schreyer: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. McIntosh: The minister has just made the statement that the opposition has been spreading false rumours. I think he should withdraw it. The opposition has never spread false rumours.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is inviting me to ask the minister to withdraw the use of unparliamentary language. It is not unparliamentary to say that false rumours are being spread. It is only if it is said that false rumours are being spread deliberately that a question of privilege arises that such words are unparliamentary.

Mr. McIntosh: On the same question of privilege, there was an occasion previously in the house when objection was taken to a statement made about bums and idiots. The minister is speaking for the government and he has just stated that the opposition is spreading false rumours. He knows that this statement is false and I ask him to withdraw it. The facts speak for themselves.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Selkirk.

Mr. Horner: A question of privilege, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope the hon. member has a different question of privilege. I have made a ruling on the question of privilege raised by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek. I also wish to bring to the attention of hon. members that there are only a few minutes left before the end of the question period. If these minutes are to be spent on questions of privilege I shall recognize the hon. member for Crowfoot.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege because the Minister of Industry Trade and Commerce deliberately implied that the opposition had misled the public and created a picture of gloom and doom in regard to the grain trade. Yesterday I led off the questioning on that subject. At that time I stated there was not going to be a boat into Vancouver until April 25. I read that in three different newspapers.

Mr. Loiselle: Newspapers!

Mr. Horner: Yes, newspapers. I want the government to clear up this issue. That is why I asked the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: It is the government's duty to clear it up.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Horner: It is also the duty of the opposition to solicit the facts.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not want to try to compete with the hon. member, but I also have to rule on his question of privilege that this matter cannot be entertained further. I do not think the Chair should be placed in the position where it has to ask the minister to withdraw his statement or withdraw words that in my view are not unparliamentary. Every day I hear from hon. members accusations that one side is preaching gloom and doom while the other side is not. To my way of thinking this is merely debate. Perhaps it may not be the impeccable dignity to which I referred earlier when introducing my colleagues, the provincial Speakers, who are in the gallery, but I am sure they will be pleased to return to their houses realizing that their lot is much easier than that of the federal Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I believe a few minutes ago the hon. member for Selkirk had a supplementary question.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will take my question as one that is not against the interests of the