

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
 CHURCHILL, MAN.—STORAGE IN  
 TERMINAL ELEVATOR

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. During the discussions was the subject of filling the grain elevators at Churchill taken into consideration? Could the minister tell the house anything about that?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** That matter was raised too, Mr. Speaker, in the course of a full day's discussion. My answer to that question must be along the lines of the answer previously given to the house by the Minister of Finance at the time when he was still responsible for the operations of the wheat board. The decision was made to concentrate all available transportation facilities on the movement of grain to the elevators on the coast. Under the circumstances it has been agreed that these transportation facilities will not be diverted at this time to fill the Churchill elevators with grain. At the same time I can give the hon. member the assurance that the elevator will be filled in time to meet the shipping requirements next summer.

REQUEST FOR DATE OF FINAL PAYMENT

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. R. Gundlock (Lethbridge):** A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister now be in a position to tell the house what will be the approximate date of the final payment by the wheat board?

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** I understand that the books will be closed as of November 30, and then the accounting procedures, which are rather onerous, will commence. The wheat board now anticipates that some time during the month of January the final payment will be made, probably toward the end of the month.

TRANSPORT

CO-ORDINATION OF GRAIN HANDLING  
 THROUGH CONTROLLER

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether or not the government is now giving any consideration to setting up a transport controller or committee to co-ordinate the efforts of the railways, the grain terminal and elevator companies, and so on, so that there can be the highest level of

[Mr. Winters.]

co-operation and co-ordination between all these grain handling facilities? I believe such a body was established for the movement of last year's grain.

**Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the program worked out last year did bring very good results. The wheat and other grains are moving very well now. As to the matter of co-ordinating transportation facilities, I would refer this question to my distinguished colleague, the Minister of Transport.

[Later:]

**Mr. Olson:** I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Transport and ask him whether the government has set up a transport co-ordinating committee composed of representatives of the Canadian wheat board, the railways, the terminal companies and the elevator companies to secure maximum efficiency in the transport of grain to export positions for the current crop year.

**Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport):** Up till now it has not been thought necessary to go beyond the relatively informal arrangements which have been in existence over the last few years and which have resulted in the greatest carriage of grain by our railways in the whole history of this country. However, should it appear that there are shortcomings with the present arrangements for liaison and co-operation the government would undoubtedly do everything it could to see that they were corrected at once. In addition to this, the government is having the whole problem of the handling of bulk cargoes through the port of Vancouver and the other ports on the lower mainland of British Columbia looked at urgently.

**Mr. Olson:** We were informed last year that there was an informal committee set up to consider transportation matters. I should like to ask the minister whether this committee is still in existence, whether it is the same kind of co-ordinating committee as functioned formerly or whether it has been disbanded.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think the arrangements which are in existence at the present time are less formal than they were last year. As a result of what was done last year and the year before, certain difficulties have been overcome and certain practices have been undertaken whose effect has been to speed the movement of wheat very greatly.