

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, and at the meeting yesterday with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who will be bringing in this legislation, made some comments about it to the effect that it would be brought into the House reasonably soon.

[Translation]

HARBOURS

MONTREAL—MEASURES TO DEAL WITH REDUCTION IN PORT ACTIVITY

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Considering that the activity in the Montreal harbour has declined by about 30 per cent since 1964, what measures does the minister intend to take in order to deal with the situation?

Mr. Speaker: I venture to point out to the hon. member that he seems to invite the minister to make a rather general statement. The hon. member might wish to make his question more explicit so that the minister can answer immediately.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I think the minister has understood my question and I will be quite happy if he is willing to answer.

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if the import of the question concerned the bringing forward of some important revisions of general policy regarding ports, which would include Montreal, I can say I hope to do that before the summer recess.

[Translation]

POST OFFICE

MONTREAL POSTAL DISPUTE—APPOINTMENT OF A MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

I should like to ask him whether he has decided to establish a cabinet committee to keep an eye on the postal dispute and to keep up to date with developments which could occur or whether the decision rests with him alone?

Canada Grain Act

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows quite well that the decisions are subject to cabinet approval.

Mr. Valade: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the President of the Treasury Board to clarify the following points for me. Is there a cabinet committee appointed especially to gather information on the developments in the Montreal postal dispute and to take the necessary decisions? Was this decision taken by the cabinet as a whole or was a special committee appointed to that effect? This is clear.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, as the need arises, I consult with my colleagues, collectively or personally. There is no definite rule.

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CANADA GRAIN ACT

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION, PROVISIONS RESPECTING GRADING, LICENCES, ELEVATORS, ETC.

The House resumed from Monday, April 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Olson that Bill C-196, respecting grain, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, last night I inadvertently became involved in this debate because of the lack of farmers in the House. As a result, I have had a look at this bill and I now want to say only a few things about it.

In the last few years there has been considerable agitation for changes in the handling of grain, not the least of which has been the operation LIFT program which, in effect, will take wheat out of production this year and put the land into summerfallow. This would establish in Canada the basis for an opportunity to start handling sales in a different manner. If this program is totally satisfactory then the new Canada Grain Act will have provided a new basis for the grain trade.

Presumably this is good legislation because it has a number of potentials. However, it also has some weaknesses. These weaknesses, in many cases, stem from the fact this is open ended legislation. This piece of legislation, along with other legislative measures necessary for western Canada will obviously