

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

ister tell the House how many ships are currently waiting to be loaded with wheat in Vancouver harbour?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board has reported that for the month of April the industry has managed record loadings of vessels and record unloadings of boxcars at the west coast. As a result, on May 1 the only ship waiting in port was a vessel that had just arrived.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** Yes, pat yourself on the back.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the hon. member for Mackenzie please resume his seat. Several hon. members now wish to ask supplementary questions. They will be recognized in just a moment. I would hope that the supplementaries would be as brief as possible and also the answers. For the moment, the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond on a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order arises from the use which is being made of the question period by planting questions.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hees:** We never used to plant them.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that if we are going to proceed and have a question period we should try to be a little more orderly than we have been in the last few minutes. The hon. member should be given an opportunity to put his point of order, on which there will be a ruling and following which we might continue with the question period.

**Mr. MacInnis:** While I recognize the fact that the question asked by the hon. member of St. Boniface is urgent and of national importance—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacInnis:** —the answer given by the minister goes beyond what is permitted under the rules. All that was required was an ability to count.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think that at this point we should try to go on with the very important matter which is being discussed at the moment by hon. members. If the hon. member for St. Boniface has a supplementary question he will be recognized.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order.

[*Mr. Guay (St. Boniface).*]

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member cannot rise on the same point of order.

[*Translation*]

I do not think that the hon. member's point of order is acceptable. If the hon. member for St. Boniface wishes to put another point of order, I shall listen to him, but I suggest that the proceeding of the House will not be helped much by that.

[*English*]

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I have been sitting here as a backbencher for the last four years.

**Some hon. Members:** Too long.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We are running short of time. The hon. member rises on a question of privilege, and he should be allowed to state it.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, since it has been brought to your attention lately that some of us on this side have been asking questions, I asked the research people to give me an outline of the number of questions that were asked from this side of the House. I find that there have been 169 questions asked from last September to March 1 of this year by our side, including the independent members, as against 2,400-odd by the other side.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** You are not doing your job, just sitting there.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

#### WHEAT—POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF SHIPS FROM VANCOUVER BECAUSE OF BACKLOG

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question to the one asked by the hon. member for St. Boniface. Have ships been diverted from Vancouver because of the fact there has been a backlog there and they were not to be kept waiting?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** No, Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board did direct some shipments which might have been loaded in Vancouver to Thunder Bay at an earlier stage, but of course the fact that speaks for itself is that loadings at Vancouver in the month of April reached an all-time record and we are now completely and currently up to date.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** And \$10 million in demurrage.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Athabasca on a supplementary question, and then the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre on a different question.