

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the sentiments of producers referred to by the right hon. member seem to follow exactly the lines of my own as expressed in a speech in Minneapolis. We have made our position very clear to the world that we are eager for orderly marketing and support price levels in the International Grains Arrangement which are adequate to recover the cost of production of producers all over the world. We have made this known to other participants and potential participants in such an agreement and we are watchful for the right opportunity to come back to discussions on such arrangements.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the minister and I should like to ask him whether or not, in view of his general acceptance of the suggestions made by these major farm organizations, he agrees that farm prices for wheat today are so low as not to give farmers any financial benefits from increasing world markets?

Mr. Speaker: I have serious doubts regarding the form of the question. The right hon. gentleman is asking the minister whether he agrees with a statement made outside the House in certain terms. I would not think that is in order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will ask the question more directly, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister of the view, shared by these various companies and organizations, that today the Canadian farmer, who is getting \$1.73½ at Fort William for top grades, is receiving a price that does not secure for the farmer any return even though there are massive increases in the sales of wheat?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it was our view of the level of international prices that led us to hold the domestic price at \$1.95½ and at a later date to introduce the two-price system. I have no hesitation in saying that the recent price levels in international trading have been too low from the point of view of the over-all cost of production. As I indicated in my speech in Minneapolis, that is exactly the point which leads me to believe that the nations of the world should agree on price levels which are fairer to everybody over all, both to buyer and seller.

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• (1450)

INDUSTRY

PROPOSED CLOSING OF QUAKER OATS PLANT, SASKATOON—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board with regard to the proposed closing of the Quaker Oats plant in Saskatoon and the representations made by the mayor of that city. Has the minister been in consultation with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and are they preparing to meet with officials from Saskatoon to discuss this matter and see what action can be taken to protect this industry?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, no meeting such as that referred to by the hon. member is

Inquiries of the Ministry

planned at the present time. We are of course looking at the total potential use of this particular plant and some discussions along those lines are taking place.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member. Perhaps he might allow a supplementary to the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar. We will then return to the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond.

Mr. Gleave: Is an investigation under way to determine whether this foreign-owned company is entitled to move its operations out of Saskatoon without consultation with the government and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I really do not think that question raises any doubt that requires investigation. Our objective, of course, will be to see if any alternatives are available.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

ALLEGED DELAY IN PAYMENT OF DISABILITY PENSIONS TO CERTAIN DISCHARGED WORKERS

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact a Crown corporation is discharging men on the basis of disability and they are required to apply for a disability pension under the Canada Pension Plan, and in view of the procedures followed of application, appeal and review committees, why is the minister holding up payments in cases considered to be worthy?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the specific instances to which the hon. member is referring. If he would care to elaborate or give me specific cases, I shall look into the matter to see whether there is indeed any delay.

Mr. MacInnis: Would the minister mind reading the mail he has been signing these last few days?

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

QUEBEC—MODIFICATION TO ALLOW RECIPIENTS TO WORK IN MAPLE SUGAR INDUSTRY WITHOUT LOSING BENEFITS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Since a number of southeastern Quebec maple sugar producers experienced numerous difficulties last season