

threat of a grasshopper infestation in the prairies as serious or more serious than last year, can the minister assure the House that there will be adequate supplies of chemical to combat the threat.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, my information is that in order to make sure that the supplies are available, because of shipping conditions, aircraft are being used to bring in supplies of the chemical. I have been given assurance that everything will be done to make sure there is a proper supply on hand. I am waiting for an updated report which I should have tomorrow but which I do not have today.

Mr. Neil: Mr. Speaker, in view of the high cost of the chemical, is it the minister's intention to institute a program to give assistance to the farmers to help them in their part of the cost?

Mr. Whelan: Not at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

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HARBOURS

MONTREAL—ABILITY OF MARITIME EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION TO MEET LOAN COMMITMENTS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. I hope that today he will be able to shed some light on the degree to which the government must now be asked to or must participate in the honouring of certain guarantees on loans made by the Maritime Employers' Association.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think it is known that loans have been made to the Maritime Employers' Association. I believe that in May of last year a loan of \$7.2 million was made to MEA, through the banks, in order to finance the buy-out and the operational deficits of the organization. I know that in a week the MEA will probably have to refinance its organization because otherwise they might not be in a position to keep it going and to meet their obligations. What we are doing now is to look at the structure of MEA and the kind of relationship they have with the union. The first priority now is to maintain payments to the workers up to the end of June, and after that we will have to move one way or the other.

Mr. Forrestall: I have a supplementary question for clarification, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister telling us that at this point in time the government is not prepared to accept its responsibility with respect to guarantees in default of loans? Is the minister indicating that at present the government will not underwrite those loans in the event that MEA is not able to meet its requirements to the banks because of the relationship generally of one port to another in eastern Canada?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker. Last year when we lent this money there was an understanding that it would be repaid with a surcharge of 20 cents or 40 cents. I believe it was 40 cents, and 20 cents was supposed to be

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paid back to the government, ten cents to each of the two banks involved in the deal.

Mr. Fairweather: Yes, the way I pay my loans.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Of course, we want the banks to stick to the agreement because we have to maintain payments to the workers. I cannot give a clear answer. They are now negotiating about how they will proceed to the end of June when we will consider a new scheme in order to maintain the port of Montreal in operation.

GOVERNMENT INTENTION WITH REGARD TO DEFICIT OF MARITIME EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister and ask him whether or not it is the intention of the government to underwrite the deficit of the Maritime Employers' Association with respect to the ports of Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Quebec. This is a fairly straightforward question.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport has been dealing with this very subject. I have nothing to add to what he said.

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IMMIGRATION

POSSIBILITY GREEN PAPER ENGENDERS RACISM—REQUEST FOR EMPHASIS ON CONTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS

Hon. Robert Stanbury (York-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and it arises out of the recent tragic rash of apparently racially motivated violence in Toronto, culminating in the death of a youth in my riding last week and of a five year old girl this week. I am sure the government is concerned that the immigration green paper process, in focusing attention on immigrants and their effects on Canadian society—

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Stanbury: —not excite, racism, as some fear it is already doing. Will the Prime Minister consult with the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, the minister in charge of multiculturalism and the Secretary of State responsible for citizenship and national unity, to ensure that there is an intensive program in conjunction with the immigration green paper process to acquaint the public with the positive contributions to Canada which immigrants have made and are making to Canada—

• (1430)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanbury: —economically as well as socially, and to promote a greater sense of community and understanding in our multicultural society?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is making a very valid