

Has the minister now reviewed the voluminous correspondence concerning the RCMP agent whose case was brought forward last week? I know the minister has studied it. The correspondence included a letter from the minister's department to the agent, captioned "Recommendation for citizenship", and another letter from the Solicitor General, who wrote on December 22 last year: "I have been in contact with the minister of immigration, the Hon. Bud Cullen, and have made representations on your behalf. I expect you will be contacted shortly." I would like to ask the minister, now that his memory has been refreshed once again, what he has been doing on this case. Has he discussed this matter with the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and what action are they planning to take?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, of course, the hon. gentleman, from his question, recognizes the sensitivity of the file concerned. I am sure he would not want me at this time to comment on the actions I intend to take. I would indicate to the hon. member that I have received representations from the hon. member for Central Nova, and from him as well, in terms of this question. I am dealing with this matter very seriously indeed, and I will be communicating with him, as well as the hon. member for Central Nova, in due course.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Solicitor General, in view of the renewed interest that the security branch has taken in this case, whether he could indicate to the House if there are written contracts of any nature with the agent in question?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I would not comment on that information at this time. I would indicate that it is not a question of renewed interest; it is a question of ongoing interest.

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GRAIN

REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. It is a matter of great interest to Canadian farmers. My understanding is that negotiations for a new international grains agreement were originally to conclude by the end of March or thereabouts. I would like to ask the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board what progress is being made. Can he tell us in general the position Canada is now taking in these negotiations?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should limit myself to saying that progress is being made in resolving some of the major differences between principal participants. It is anticipated now, however, that the agreement will not be concluded during this set of negotiations but,

rather, that in a matter of weeks another meeting will be held to conclude the agreement.

● (1502)

Mr. Nystrom: Can the minister confirm that the government of Canada is taking a position of supporting reserve stocks without supporting a reserve price range for the sale of grain at the same time; in other words, a minimum-maximum price.

Mr. Lang: Expressed that way, Mr. Speaker, I think the question is somewhat misleading. It is our position that reserve stocks can be a very important part of an agreement. Of course, having those reserve stocks would involve having a bottom price or a low price at which stocks would have to be accumulated, and then they would be held off the market until a high price or a top price was achieved.

There is some difference of view among countries as to whether, at that bottom price or top price, in addition to the reserve action and other action, there should be certain commitments to supply over and above the reserve. We have not taken the position that that would be very workable and that, in fact, the reserve and other forms of action at those levels of price are the way to get a decent return for our producers.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON "BUY CANADIAN" POLICY

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a straightforward question for the Minister of Finance which I hope will elicit a straightforward answer regarding Premier Davis' letter to the Prime Minister of Canada. Premier Davis mentioned a number of areas in which there was agreement at the federal-provincial first ministers' conference for action to get the Canadian economy back on track and create new jobs. I ask the minister, what action has been taken by the government since the first ministers' conference to implement the agreed upon "Buy Canadian" policy, and also to provide new incentives for industrial research and development in Canada?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was to write all premiers following the conference for a follow-up on those propositions. Of course, there was discussion in our government about research and development. However, I do not have anything to announce on that matter at this time.

Mr. Beatty: May I ask the minister about two other areas in which there was agreement between the provinces and the federal government on which Premier Davis feels there has been no action? Has any action been taken on the proposal to get the unemployed back to work by putting them to work on such projects as badly needed sections, rebuilding railroad beds, grade separation, and by taking action to protect Canadian jobs under the auto pact?