

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lang: That is the kind of difficulty I can foresee with regard to the general question. I am not sure it is in my hands, in any respect, to table that item.

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—EXTENSION BEYOND JULY 15 FOR SEEDING COVER CROP

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that seeding by most farmers will be at least one month later than the seeding that will be done on the minister's farm, and as the farmers will not be able to reap the fodder from any perennial grass cover crop that he may be able to, will the minister extend the date from July 15 by at least three weeks or one month so that other farmers can qualify in the same way that he can?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): If the hon. member had been here the other day, he would know that I answered a question essentially the same as the one he is now asking. July 15 is approximately the middle of the summer in all regions of Canada. It has to be borne in mind that the permission to seed a cover crop of oats before July 15 was designed for protection against soil erosion, wind erosion, not primarily for the purpose of seeding a crop of that nature.

Mr. Korchinski: In view of the fact that perennial grass cannot be used as hay for at least two years, will the minister be prepared to help farmers who wish to co-operate with him by extending the period for one month and allowing them to use the cover crop for fodder?

Mr. Olson: There is no prohibition in the regulations as far as I know which would prevent any man using this cover crop for grazing purposes.

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—CONSIDERATION FOR FARMERS WHO MADE REDUCTIONS LAST YEAR

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): My question is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. If I may preface it, Mr. Speaker, members of this House have been asking since operation LIFT—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member cannot preface his question in that way. He should ask the question.

[Mr. Burton.]

Mr. Benjamin: In view of the statement issued publicly by a member of the Saskatchewan Federation of Agriculture concerning the parts of operation LIFT which he feels are inequitable and unfair, would the minister say whether or not, taking into account the remarks of Mr. Bowden, additional consideration will be given to the situation of farmers who reduced their acreage in 1969?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): As has been indicated many times, the situation of those who had reduced their acreage previously was taken into consideration at the time the policy itself was formulated; it was felt that any other changes which could be made would have as many adverse effects as positive ones. That is exactly why we achieved the balance we did in the program.

UNITED STATES WHEAT ACREAGE ESTIMATES

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): My question, too, is directed to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board and it relates to recent allegations that farmers in the United States are increasing their wheat acreage this year, thus reducing the effect of the LIFT program. Can the minister give the House the latest estimates of the acreage of wheat to be harvested in the United States in 1970?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): I would be glad to get the precise figures of estimates, but estimates of wheat to be seeded in the United States show a definite downward trend compared with last year and only in one or two isolated areas is an increase indicated.

BROADCASTING

PROVISION OF SECOND TELEVISION CHANNEL IN SYDNEY, N.S.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is addressed to the Secretary of State, Mr. Speaker. I have given the hon. gentleman notice. It is urgent and it is prompted by a recent statement by the CRTC and the CBC. Can the minister tell us what steps are being taken to provide a second television channel in Sydney, Nova Scotia?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): First, Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for advising me of his question. I was thus able to obtain information and here is the answer I was given.