

In view of the contradictory news which has appeared in newspapers concerning the supply of feed grains in eastern Canada, can the minister advise the House whether the current stocks of feed grains in eastern terminals are sufficient to meet the needs of farm producers during the 1974-75 winter?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, not enough grain is in position in eastern locations for domestic or export movement for the winter. Ordinarily, the volume of grain would be moving into these positions throughout the lakes and the Seaway; but that, of course, is not possible at present because of the grain inspectors' strike which is going on.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary.

Can the minister promise this House that provisions will be taken in order to see to it that eastern Canadian farmers can be assured that sufficient supplies will reach them in time so as to avoid speculation which is already starting to take place in that region?

[English]

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think that my best course at this point, while assuring the hon. member that we all attempt to look at all possibilities and avenues, is to join in the answer given a short while ago by my colleague, the Minister of Transport, to a similar question.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC SERVICE

FEED GRAINS—ADEQUACY OF MOVEMENT WHEN GRAIN HANDLERS' STRIKE SETTLED

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put my question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Owing to the difficulties encountered by the egg and poultry industry because of the grain inspectors' strike, would the government be willing to restore the grants program in operation last year when there was a railway strike, grants intended for feed-grain producers who are compelled to supply themselves from suppliers in other provinces, for instance?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, we have not taken any definite decision on the plan to evade the difficulty. I take due note of the hon. member's suggestion but I am in no position to give him a reply right now.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Is the minister aware of the danger that this situation might easily degenerate to the point where Canadians might watch on television the nauseating spectacle of chickens dying by the hundreds, and maybe also dying cattle, for lack of feed?

Oral Questions

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of this danger, but I am bound by the laws voted by Parliament, which gave to those employees the right to go on strike.

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● (1510)

[English]

CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ROLE IN PROMOTING INDUSTRY IN SLOW GROWTH AREAS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and concerns the role of the Canada Development Corporation in these depressed times. Is the minister taking steps to use the expertise and resources of the Canada Development Corporation to promote industries in the slow growth regions of the country—which in these days is practically all of the country—and, particularly, is he considering using this corporation to promote a coal and steel industry in eastern Canada? Does the minister consider this to be practical?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to draw this representation to the attention of the president of the Canada Development Corporation. The minister who reports to parliament for the corporation has also noted the representation.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. SPEAKER AND WIFE ON BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, before asking a question, may I express, on behalf of my colleagues and, certainly, on behalf of all members, our salutations and congratulations to you and to Mrs. Jerome on the occasion of the birth of your child. We hope she will bring as distinguished a contribution as her father's to the public affairs of Canada.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF NARCOTICS INTO HAMILTON BY PLANE—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): My question is directed to the Solicitor General. I should like to ask about an investigation to be conducted by the RCMP into a matter which caused widespread concern in the Hamilton area and elsewhere over the weekend. I am referring of course, to the matter raised on Friday in connection with drug smuggling into Hamilton international airport. At that time the minister promised to give us a report. I wonder if he is now in a position to provide the House with that report.