

council, which does not help any situation. And I would indicate to the hon. member that, just as his own research is obviously unreliable, we have some unreliable leaks in the government service as well, because the fact of the matter is we are discussing with women's groups, including the advisory council, the question of a review. It was raised with the council yesterday and I will await their discussion and recommendations, which I hope to have any day now.

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GRAIN

COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS TO RUSSIA

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport in his capacity of answering for the Canadian Wheat Board. Farmers in Canada are becoming sick and tired over the continuing promises for compensation on the limited grain embargo imposed on the Soviet Union, in which Canada participated. Has the Canadian Wheat Board yet indicated to the government the level of compensation that should be paid, and if so, has the matter been brought up before cabinet?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, this question comes under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture and I pass it on to him.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, a study of the losses that grain producers may have suffered has been submitted to cabinet for decision. We are honouring the former government's commitment.

Mr. Murta: Madam Speaker, the minister has indicated the study has been submitted to cabinet. Given the fact the government is not stalling or fudging or hedging on this particular issue, can he indicate to the House when farmers in Canada will likely know the amount of compensation the government is going to pay?

Mr. Whelan: Madam Speaker, I would hope soon.

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● (1450)

IMMIGRATION

RUMOUR OF GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN QUEBEC

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Having been associated closely in the past with the general amnesty program entitled "Opération mon Pays—Operation Canada my Country", and knowing that in Quebec we are on the eve of a provincial election, can the minister inform the House if there is any truth in the rumour of a general amnesty for illegal immigrants in Quebec, following a

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request of the Quebec minister of immigration who is now encouraging illegal immigrants to visit Quebec immigration offices for a special screening test?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I have not yet received any official communication from the minister of immigration for the province of Quebec. We contacted his office and we were told that he did not in any way issue a call for general amnesty. He was simply prepared to take illegal immigrants on a case by case basis to see if there were any grounds for humanitarian consideration. However, I will be meeting with the minister of immigration from that province tomorrow. But I can tell the House that we certainly have no intention at this time of any general amnesty; because it really does not solve the problem of illegal immigrants in the country.

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AGRICULTURE

STEPS TO COMBAT SPREAD OF ANIMAL DISEASES

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture to whom I sent notice. Under the Animal Disease and Protection Act, all animal products from other countries must be destroyed or returned to the country of origin in order to avoid bringing disease into Canada. A similar act exists for plants. Unfortunately, due to a dispute between Agriculture Canada and the Air Traffic Association of Canada as to who will pay the cost, incinerators have not been built to take care of wastes from commercial international flights at prairie airports. Could the minister tell the House if his department has an agreement with the Air Traffic Association of Canada regarding the building of these incinerators? If so, what is the nature of the agreement, and when will incinerators be built?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I have been informed by my officials that progress has been made. The airlines are responding to our complaints. At the moment we consider the progress satisfactory. CP Air is building one, and the negotiations at Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg are proceeding as we hoped they would. They seem to have accepted the idea that they are responsible for this. It is food that has not been consumed on airlines travelling to some country other than the United States of America.

SHORTAGE OF VETERINARY INSPECTORS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Another area in which there are financial considerations or a lack of personnel for the protection of consumers and farmers from disease organisms from outside the country is that of veterinary inspection. There seems to be a number of available vacancies. Without getting into the problems which exist now between the department and existing veterinary inspectors, is the problem of providing an adequate service a simple one of not enough money, or is there