

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. McIntosh: The offer of sophisticated electronic and related equipment as offered to other NATO countries.

Mr. Trudeau: I would wish to defer to the Minister of National Defence, but there are a great many areas in which there is co-operation in this field and exchanges of scientific and technical information of military importance between our two countries.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**ARGENTIA TASK FORCE—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. It concerns the Argentinia task force. In view of the fact that this task force has not met since last May, can the hon. gentleman say whether it is still in existence and when we can expect a report?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I will inquire and report to the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE**FARM CREDIT CORPORATION LOANS—ALLEGED RIGHT TO SEIZE GRAIN IN LIEU OF OVERDUE PAYMENTS**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of reported demands by the Farm Credit Corporation for repayment of overdue loans, accompanied by the statement that the corporation has the right to seize grain, and in view of offers made by producers to deliver grain to the Saskatoon office of the Farm Credit Corporation, can the minister say whether space has now been made available for the acceptance of grain in lieu of overdue payments to the Farm Credit Corporation?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): There are no foreclosures being made on loans in Saskatchewan—I checked this a few days ago—unless they are more than four years in arrears. The FCC is not in a position to accept grain. The corporation made the loans in cash and expects repayment in cash.

Mr. Skoberg: Would the minister accept a letter I have on file indicating exactly the opposite of what he has just told us?

Mr. Olson: I would be very interested to see it.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**NEW PROCEDURES TO EXPEDITE PAYMENT OF BENEFITS**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct the following question to the Minister

of Labour. In view of the continuing dissatisfaction expressed by labour groups and working people generally about delay in processing applications to the Unemployment Insurance Commission, often resulting in difficulties for municipalities who find themselves obliged to make welfare payments, will the minister undertake to bring in new procedures to expedite payment of unemployment benefits?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Despite the fact that we are processing over 98 per cent of the claims on time, within a week or ten days I shall be announcing procedures which I believe will help to alleviate the situation further. These will take effect about the middle of January and will permit us to pay claims at least a full week sooner than the law obliges us to do.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**EAST GERMAN REPUBLIC—POSSIBLE RECOGNITION BY CANADA**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the government of Canada carrying on negotiations with the East German Republic with a view to giving diplomatic recognition to that state?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

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GRAIN**ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT MARKET INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Since the European Economic Community and the United Kingdom comprise the largest cash market for imported grain in the world, has Canada established a permanent market intelligence service in those countries to help sell Canadian grain?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Our market intelligence service is already established in a number of countries all over the world. It includes the trade commission offices which perform a very valuable service. The Canadian Wheat Board itself has permanent representatives in London.

Mr. Murta: I should like to ask the minister whether there is to be any positive move in the near future to establish marketing information and promotion posts on a permanent basis in the countries I have mentioned?

Mr. Lang: I have indicated that these are already established, so I do not know how I can answer that.