

TRADE

TEMPORARY CURTAILMENT OF LOG
SHIPMENTS TO JAPAN

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and ask him if he has received a telegram from the British Columbia section of the International Woodworkers claiming that plants and sawmills are being closed down for the lack of logs at the same time that an increasingly large number of logs are being exported to Japan? Have they asked the government to restrict the export of logs until such time as domestic requirements have been met? If the minister has received this request, could I ask him what reply he has given, and what steps he intends to take to deal with the matter?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): I have received a telegram, Mr. Speaker, of the nature described by the hon. member, and I had discussions with the Minister of Lands, Forests and Water Resources for the province of British Columbia. Together we have received an undertaking from the principal log exporting companies that they will not export logs until the supply improves, or until September 1 of this year.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Unless the supplementary question is urgent, I am rather anxious to give an opportunity to other members.

FARM IMPROVEMENT LOANS ACT

ACTION TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY OF
LOANS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of recent reports that farmers are unable to receive loans under provisions of the recently amended Farm Improvement Loans Act, due to tardiness in establishing appropriate regulations, can the minister say what action if any is being taken to relieve this serious situation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I believe this is under the jurisdiction of my department, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the question immediately.

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact this legislation was passed October 15, and the

Inquiries of the Ministry

farmers are in the process of arranging their spring programs, will the minister see this is looked into immediately?

Mr. Benson: I already said that.

[Translation]

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

EMPLOYMENT OF ROD SERVICE PERSONNEL

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General.

He recently announced the cancellation of contracts with Rod Service Limited. In those circumstances, could he indicate how many employees of Rod Service Limited have since been hired by his department?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking for statistical information and I do not think his question is in order.

[English]

AIR CANADA

SALARIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Chester North): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the answer provided me yesterday to written question No. 1526 that Air Canada is unwilling to provide information as to the salaries of the Chairman of the Board and the President of Air Canada, will the minister look into this matter and give consideration to making this information public?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): The criteria applied in this regard has been that salaries set by order in council were public and those not set by order in council were not divulged. This has been the dividing line. This is a precedent which has been in effect for many years in the House of Commons. Whether it was a correct one, I would not wish to debate at the moment. We are just following a precedent of long standing.

Mr. Coates: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that the salary of the President of Canadian National Railways is made available to the public, although they are in competition with Canadian Pacific Railway, and in view of the fact the salary of the President of the C.B.C. is available to the public, although they are in competition—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary question is argumentative.