

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

As this question is of great interest to me, I would like to ask the minister if he has met the representatives of the Tobacco Producers Association of Canada who seem very worried about this policy?

[English]

Mr. Munro: Yes, I have, Mr. Speaker, but not recently. The last time was many months ago.

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POLLUTION

SUGGESTED HALTING OF PROPOSED AERIAL FOREST SPRAYING IN KLANAWA RIVER BASIN PENDING ASSESSMENT OF ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry involving wide ecological considerations. In view of the known dangers attached to the use of the defoliants 2-4-D and 2-4-5-T, and the concern being expressed by commercial fishermen and conservation groups, will the minister seek to halt the proposed aerial forest spraying program in the Klanawa River basin on the west coast of Vancouver Island until ecological aspects of the proposal additional to the danger of direct fish kill have been fully assessed? Also, will he direct that research studies be made by the forestry branch of his department aimed at devising better techniques for retarding weed tree growth?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, a considerable amount of research has already been done on this subject by our fisheries and wildlife people. No unfavourable ecological effects have been reported as a result of the use of this spray material.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

MEASURES TO RELIEVE EFFECT OF FREEING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR ON PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

Mr. Alexander Cyr (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

Could he tell the House if his department or a cabinet committee is presently studying the serious situation of the Canadian pulp and paper industry, following the unpegging of the Canadian dollar?

As some of the plants, such as the Gaspesia Pulp and Paper in Chandler, on the Gaspé peninsula, must stop operating, will the minister make a statement in the near future about the measures which will be taken to meet this situation?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the pulp and paper industry have made representations to us with regard to their difficulties which do not only arise from the unpegging of the Canadian dollar. Their representations are under consideration.

Inquiries of the Ministry

GRAIN

SHIPS WAITING TO BE LOADED AT VANCOUVER BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROPER GRADES PRIOR TO LABOUR SLOWDOWNS—DEMURRAGE CHARGES

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): I wish to direct my question to the minister who reports for the Canadian Wheat Board. Will the minister inform the House how many ships were waiting in Vancouver harbour for grain cargoes and could not be loaded because of the lack of proper grades of wheat and barley at the grain terminals prior to the recent labour slowdowns?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the labour slowdowns have been going on for a significant period of time. Therefore it is difficult to state the precise point at which this might be said to have started. There were ships waiting in the harbour, but prior to the last difficulty the number of ships at berth or waiting for berths was about equal to the number of berths available.

Mr. McIntosh: I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister on the presumption that he saw the question that I directed to the Prime Minister yesterday. Will the minister make representations to the cabinet that demurrage charges for these ships be paid from the federal treasury rather from receipts of the grain producers?

PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL STORAGE CAPACITY AT VANCOUVER

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the recent statement made by the president of the United Grain Growers, who is also chairman of the Canada Grains Council, that the Canadian grain industry stands in need of an additional five or six million bushels of storage capacity on the Vancouver waterfront, has the minister had any discussions with the co-operatives and the private companies with a view to exploring the possibility of acquiring additional storage?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the whole question of our handling and transportation system is under study. In particular, the facilities at Vancouver have been reviewed fairly constantly. There were a number of changes in the arrangements in Vancouver which seemed to make possible better use of the facilities there. The companies involved have now agreed to take various steps which would allow the facilities to be used to a greater extent. A further examination is being made of whether more facilities are required.

Mr. Gleave: Has the minister considered the possibility of having the National Harbours Board construct additional facilities, or of taking some action under the aegis of the Board of Grain Commissioners, shortly to come under new direction? Has the minister given consideration to taking action along these lines?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, no specific decisions have been taken about the sort of facilities that would be required,