

Inquiries of the Ministry

while our western granaries are filled to capacity?

Hon. Ron. Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the questions of prices and costs were referred to in the Speech from the Throne. A further statement on these subjects will be made by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Hales: May I ask a supplementary question? Can the Prime Minister advise the house when we may expect this statement?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, consultations have been conducted with our officials and representatives of the provinces. I have also begun consultations with representatives of labour and management. Our aim is to draw up a white paper which will be submitted for consideration as soon as the consultations have proven conclusive one way or the other.

AGRICULTURE**HOGS—REQUEST FOR INCENTIVE TO INCREASE QUALITY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether any consideration has been given to restoring immediately to its former level the bonus on premium grade hogs. If not, is any other form of incentive being considered by which we might encourage the production of quality bacon?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure my hon. friend is aware of our new grading procedures for determining high quality hogs. I am sure these will be beneficial in encouraging production of the kind of hog that is most acceptable to the consumer.

MANITOBA—PROVISIONS FOR HARVESTING GRAIN AND POTATOES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Can he say whether officials of his department are engaged in drawing up contingency programs to be applied in the event the grain and potato harvesting situation in Manitoba worsens?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Of course the Department of Agriculture has responsibility for the Board of Grain Commissioners, which in turn

[Mr. Hales.]

administers the terminals at Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge. There are in those terminals facilities for drying about 7,000 bushels of grain per hour. We are taking steps now to make sure there is sufficient space around these drying facilities so they can be used if and when they are needed. What we need even more, however, is three or four weeks of bright sunshine, which would obviate the necessity for using these facilities. I can assure my hon. friend that steps are being taken to make the maximum use of the facilities.

[Translation]

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO DAIRY POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture whom I congratulate on his new appointment.

While the minister is reviewing the western grain policy, could he also consider a dairy policy for eastern Canada and the province of Quebec and let us know about it in the near future?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): We have had consultations with the Canadian Dairy Commission and with many producers in Quebec as well as elsewhere in eastern Canada concerning their particular commodities and problems. As a matter of fact, about a week ago I made a trip to Quebec city and I had interesting discussions with some farmers who were there that evening. As a result I am better acquainted with some of their problems.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture who will easily grasp its meaning since he is a former Social Creditor.

I would like to know if the Minister of Agriculture knows about the matter and if he is now making some arrangements to have the subsidies paid to the milk producers, as they are complaining that they have not received anything since April and it is now almost October.

[English]

Mr. Olson: If there are any Quebec producers who are not receiving their payments from the dairy commission, I would be very happy to have the matter investigated if the hon. member would send me the names of the particular producers he has in mind.