Inquiries of the Ministry
WHEAT—COMPETITION FROM U.S. FOR U.S.S.R.
AND CHINESE PURCHASES

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary probably falls peculiarly within the knowledge of the Prime Minister. Has he any information on whether the United States is considering bidding for Russian or perhaps Chinese wheat markets? Did the Prime Minister receive any information on this subject in his discussions with President Nixon?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

WHEAT—SUGGESTED EXPANSION OF SALES PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary arises from the statement made by the Chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board in Winnipeg on Friday last to the effect that the Wheat Board would welcome any supplement to the sales staff of the Wheat Board by means of an expansion of the trade promotion bureau of the Department of Trade and Commerce. Will the government give consideration to the observation made by the Chairman of the Wheat Board in respect of the sales promotion staff of the Canadian Wheat Board being supplemented by other officials of the government.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am sure the minister will take note of the representations of the member, Mr. Speaker.

WHEAT—ATTRACTIVE TERMS TO POTENTIAL IMPORTERS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister in respect of what I consider to be a matter of grave urgency. In view of the fact that the recent tour of the agricultural committee through western Canada indicated that the basic problem facing grain farmers was the huge pileup of unsold grain, will the Prime Minister in full co-operation with his ministers immediately develop trade policies with potential importers, such as long-term low interest rate credit arrangements, reciprocal trade agreements and the like, so that our Wheat Board will have some practical support in moving our large stocks of prairie grain?

Mr. Speaker: The hon, member's question takes the form of a submission or representation. I assume the minister has made note of it

[Mr. Trudeau.]

EXCHANGE OF WHEAT FOR JAPANESE MANUFACTURES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance, who, along with the Minister of Agriculture, has just returned from Japan. During these discussions did Japanese authorities offer to take more western wheat in return for the importation by Canada of certain industrial goods from Japan? Was there any deal or discussion in this regard?

Hon, E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Woolliams: The minister said not to his knowledge, but I should like to know whether there was any discussion in respect of this matter. He was present during the discussions. Did he stimulate any thought in this regard?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, we stimulated a great deal of thought in respect of Japan importing more wheat, rapeseed and many other products of Canada.

Mr. Woolliams: Are you prepared to give us a statement?

GRAIN

JURISDICTION BY WHEAT BOARD OVER FEED GRAINS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the tremendous reception given the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board at a mass meeting of the Saskatchewan Farmers Union in Saskatoon on April 10, at which time a brief was presented to the government of Canada, the government of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Wheat Board, concerning the return of feed grains including flax, rye and rapeseed, to the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board, can the Prime Minister advise whether this report has been considered by the government and indicate what action the government proposes to take as a result of this request on the part of this farm organization?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): This also will be dealt with by the relevant minister, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I submit when there is a continuing serious crisis the government and the Prime Minister should forget the arbitrary, highly improper and illegal roster system the Prime Minister has introduced, and have someone here to answer the questions.