

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Perhaps I might respond. The United States was advised in advance. Canada did not feel it necessary to seek approval or disapproval of any American officials in this regard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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COMMUNICATIONS

POSITION OF CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION ON PROPOSED POLICE CONTROL OVER NEWS DURING CRISES—STUDY BY CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State of which I gave notice on Friday. Will the minister advise what assurance he has received from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that it will not be a party to an illiberal proposal which would give the police a measure of control over news during crises—a proposal which has been quite rightly criticized by the police association?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I should like to thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. I am informed by the CBC that the CBC is in no way a party to any possible control of information by the police or others.

Mr. Fairweather: Can the minister tell us whether the Canadian Radio-Television Commission is taking any action to study this plan which could result, if implemented, in a serious limitation of press freedom? I suppose I ought to direct that question to the Minister of Communications.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as it became evident, after a letter was sent to both broadcasting associations by the chairman of the CRTC, this agency was not aware at all of those agreements and an explanation by the broadcasters was requested.

[English]

**PROPOSED POLICE CONTROL OF NEWS DURING CRISES—
POSITION OF ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. May I ask whether any policy is being evolved within the police security planning and research group to step into this field should they assess a situation as one which affects national security?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): There has been no plan, no agreement whatsoever, by the RCMP or the police security planning group with respect to this matter. There had been a meeting between the former Solicitor General and the radio broadcasters, but it was merely with respect to the forcible occupancy of radio stations during crises such as the general strike last year.

[Mr. Sharp.]

It had nothing to do with respect to direction of news or control of news.

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• (1430)

GRAIN

**DISCUSSIONS TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF QUOTAS BY
SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Further to the questions that have been directed to the minister in the past several weeks in regard to plugged grain elevators in Saskatchewan, can the minister inform the House whether he has held discussions with the transportation committee and/or the Canadian Wheat Board and received any assurance that farmers who have been unable to deliver their quotas will be able to do so?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, we have been having regular discussions, both at the official level and between myself and the Canadian Wheat Board, about the expeditious movement of grain. Certainly the basic position of the Wheat Board is that there will be an adequate opportunity for delivery of grain during the course of the current crop year. In addition, special consideration will be given to granting additional time for deliveries at any elevator point that is congested at the termination date for a delivery quota.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for Richmond—

[English]

The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar has a supplementary so perhaps he should be allowed to ask his supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for Richmond.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, since this situation has existed for some time, may I ask the minister whether he has had conversations with the elevator companies and the Canadian Wheat Board regarding the congestion that exists at these delivery points, and will he report to the House in the very near future on what action he is going to take in the near future, not next August?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, there have been such conversations and the action that is being taken has already been indicated to the House.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

**WINDSOR, QUE.—PROVISION OF DOOR TO DOOR MAIL
DELIVERY**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the hon. Postmaster General.