

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CRIMINAL CODE****INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF AMENDING LEGISLATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Justice a question. Does the minister intend to bring in the omnibus Criminal Code bill before Christmas so it can be a Christmas present to be studied by the Canadian people?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I hope so, Mr. Speaker. The redrafting of the bill is currently before the cabinet. If I can obtain the consent of the other parties in the house, which I understand I may be able to obtain, to bypass the resolution relating to one small section in connection with the number of members on the parole board, there is a good chance, if my colleagues will agree, that I shall have the bill available to hon. members before the adjournment.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. From what the Minister of Justice has said I take it that except for one small part of the bill which deals with the parole board it will not be necessary to bring in a resolution. The bill would come in at first reading. Is that the proposition?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That is my understanding, sir, yes.

Mr. John Gilber (Broadview): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the government intend to include in the omnibus bill to amend the Criminal Code a measure abolishing corporal punishment?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Not in this particular bill, sir.

GRAIN**USE OF DRYING FACILITIES AT LAKEHEAD ELEVATORS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): In the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Has the question of grain drying at the lakehead terminals been resolved on a 24-hour, seven day basis, or is drying still being carried out on a six day basis?

[Mr. Baldwin.]

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have the impression that this matter has been discussed at some length in the house, but I will gladly refer it to the ministers involved.

Mr. Korchinski: On a question of privilege, on November 27 Your Honour, in disallowing a motion that this entire subject be debated, ruled that the wheat situation was a continuing emergency. This being so, the other day I asked that the Prime Minister should have at least one minister available to answer questions concerning this problem, for every day on which plant is idle at the lakehead, 260,000 bushels are left undried. Mr. Speaker, we have now lost one and a half months, during which something like 25 million bushels could have been dried at the lakehead.

This question has still not been resolved, and I have no opportunity to ask the ministers directly concerned what is being done about it. Moreover, neither the Minister of Transport nor the Minister without Portfolio, who answers questions in connection with the transport of wheat, is available for questioning. I believe it to be my duty to raise questions on this pressing matter on any opportunity which presents itself. I am sure the Prime Minister can revise the roster and see that one responsible minister is here so that hon. members may receive a reply more satisfactory than an undertaking to refer the questions raised to the appropriate minister provided he is available. Mr. Speaker, he should be available on all occasions, because this problem has been with us for a long time. I suggest I have every right to stand up each day in the house and ask questions which I believe to be extremely pressing and important.

Mr. Trudeau: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, no one disputes the right of the hon. member to ask questions every day, or every hour on the hour if he wishes to do so. The important issue is not whether he can ask questions but whether the problem itself will be solved, and we are trying to work out a system whereby ministers will have time in which to solve problems and not merely be present in the house to answer questions which have been asked a hundred times before.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): The right of members to ask questions carries with it as a corollary the right at least to expect an answer concerning matters