

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we will return to the hon. member in a few minutes. We might now move to another subject for a few minutes and then call again on the hon. member. We will return to him for the purpose of allowing him to ask a further supplementary.

AGRICULTURE

INTEREST RATES ON FARM MORTGAGES

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Following your admonition, Mr. Speaker, I turn to another subject. This question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture, and I think it is very urgent and important.

In view of the fact that the interest rate on government farm mortgages has recently been fixed at 8½ per cent by Order in Council, would the minister very shortly make a statement on motions to reconcile this action with the provisions of Section 42 of the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act which provides for a limit of 5 per cent when there has been compliance with that act?

[Translation]

Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am taking the hon. member's question into consideration. I will hand it over to the minister when he is in the house.

[English]

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, in the event that this view is sustained, will the minister advise the Farm Credit Corporation and the other institutions lending money under government legislation and also ensure that all farm mortgage debtors are acquainted with their position whether in relation to government or other farm mortgages?

GRAIN

NORTHERN ALBERTA—INQUIRY AS TO ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon-Hunboldt I will direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the continuing adverse weather conditions in northern Alberta and the Alberta government's announced intention to help farmers

with snowed-under crops, is the federal government taking any initiatives, similar to those taken in 1959, to provide some form of assistance to offset the dire circumstances resulting from the shortage of cash, because cash advances cannot be acquired on unharvested grain, and to meet the shortage of feed and feed requirements during the ensuing winter?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the Wheat Board asked me to say that he and the Minister of Agriculture are considering such measures.

Mr. Mazankowski: Will the minister be prepared to make a statement in the house within the next ten days?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister will want to ask the hon. member to repeat his question when he is ready to answer it.

POLLUTION

RECOMMENDATION AGAINST USE OF PHOSPHORUS IN DETERGENTS

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in view of the report on pollution recently submitted by the International Joint Commission which recommended that the use of phosphorus by the detergent industry in its products should be stopped within the next two years, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources or his Parliamentary Secretary whether the department has taken any steps to implement this very urgent and important recommendation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I will look into that, Mr. Speaker.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Postmaster General whether the Minister of Justice has requested the Post Office Department to issue a special stamp featuring Hal Banks to commemorate and express the jubilation of the government on the so-called closing of this famous case?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.