

AGRICULTURE

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GRAIN PRODUCTION GOALS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. A week or ten days ago I asked the minister whether he would issue a statement regarding an outline of the goals for grain production in western Canada. Is the minister now prepared to do this?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I believe this question properly should go to the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. However, I would point out that the farmers can be relied upon pretty well to make their own intelligent decisions in this regard. This I think is shown in the statement of planting intentions issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for March 16, which indicates that western farmers intend to seed 29.1 million acres of wheat in 1966 as compared to 27.7 million acres in 1965, together with an increase of 26 per cent in fertilizer used this year and a 6 per cent cut-back in summer fallow.

If weather conditions are suitable and these intentions are carried out I would expect that we should harvest a crop which would adequately meet our commercial as well as our aid requirements.

Mr. Nasserden: Mr. Speaker, I thought perhaps the minister might have a reply of his own as well.

Mr. W. H. Jorgenson (Provencher): Is it not true, Mr. Speaker, that during the election campaign the members of the government indicated they were going to provide such forecasts on which farmers would be able to base their estimates?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

ROADS TO RESOURCES—RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister, with reference to the statement he is reported to have made in Quebec city on Saturday. He is reported to have said that the federal government in the future will not opt into matters within the provincial jurisdiction. Will the

Inquiries of the Ministry

Prime Minister say whether this means that the government does not intend to re-establish the roads to resources program?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether he could give some indication to the house as to how soon legislation will be brought forward to implement the Canada assistance plan.

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is intended to introduce the legislation at the earliest possible moment when there is an indication of when it can be dealt with.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that this matter is very important, would it not be advisable to put it on the order paper before Easter so we can study this legislation over the Easter recess?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we will make every effort to provide an appropriate study period for this and other legislation, but I cannot give an assurance at the moment that it will be on the order paper before the Easter recess.

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary request to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Is there anything that we on this side of the house can do to assist him in bringing forward this legislation?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister whether he is yet in a position to answer my question of a few days as to whether the Canada assistance plan, pension legislation and medicare will be on the order paper before Easter.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think I said they would be on the order paper shortly.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister say whether it is the intention of the government to refer