

Inquiries of the Ministry

received an answer from the minister to a series of questions I have put to him over the past few months with respect to the emergency application of the benefits of the P.F.A.A. to western farmers, can the minister now say, in view of the large scale damage to western crops due to frost and continuing rain, what is the government's policy with respect to the special application of this act similar to that taken by the former government in 1961?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, these things are all under consideration at the moment, and as soon as we have something definite we shall be glad to announce it.

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN
FEED GRAIN AGENCY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Raymond Langlois (Mégantic): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. On September 22 I had a question for the Minister of Agriculture which I directed to the Prime Minister, who told me he would refer it to the Minister of Agriculture. So today I am directing to the Minister of Agriculture a question which I asked a year ago. My question concerns a feed grain agency for eastern Canada. At what stage are negotiations, and is it the intention of the government to go through with this as soon as possible this fall?

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, eastern feed grains now come under the responsibility of the Minister of Forestry.

Mr. Langlois: I have a supplementary question. I hope when forestry comes under the minister's responsibility he will let us know about that.

REPORT OF EASTERN CANADA FARM SURVEY

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Clément Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture following a statement made by the minister of agriculture of the province of Quebec to a group of supporters last week, when he said that he was expecting a report from the federal government on the situation of agriculture in eastern Canada.

Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us whether the federal government intends to publish this report in the near future?

[Mr. Southam.]

[*Text*]

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member would mind repeating his question. I did not get it.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: My question arises out of the statement made by the Quebec minister of agriculture who said to a group of supporters that he was waiting for a report from the federal government on the situation of agriculture in eastern Canada before taking steps about agriculture.

Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us if such a report will soon be made public by the federal government?

[*Text*]

Mr. Hays: Mr. Speaker, there are many programs in the Department of Agriculture involving forestry and redevelopment which we are discussing with all provinces. I suppose this is what the hon. member has reference to. When anything specific arises out of these discussions it will certainly be announced in the house at the appropriate time.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Vincent: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that the federal government will not make any specific report to the province of Quebec about eastern agriculture? I am thinking in particular about the kind of report the Quebec minister of agriculture mentioned over the week end at the congress of the Quebec Liberal federation.

[*Text*]

Mr. Hays: I would suppose that we were discussing problems with Quebec at the moment, in so far as ARDA programs are concerned. We are in consultation with them on some new legislation we are proposing, and if this is what the hon. member is referring to, this will be announced at the proper time.

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): May I ask a supplementary question. In the light of the d.b.s. statistics which show that farm income for the first six months of the year has gone up in comparison with last year, would the minister inform the house—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Grafftey:—would the minister inform the house whether dairy farmers in general, and Quebec farmers in particular, have shared in this increase in revenue?