

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Trade and Commerce inform the house whether the United States is keeping the Canadian government informed of any new approaches it may be making with regard to the International Grains Arrangement?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the co-operation we are receiving from that country is very good. Largely as a result of this I am in a position to say that a meeting will be held next week in Washington at the ministerial level, attended by Canada, Australia, Argentina the European economic community and the United States. The purpose of the meeting is to review the world wheat marketing situation and to see what can be done about strengthening co-operation among wheat exporters to resolve the problems that have arisen in regard to wheat prices.

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary question. Might I ask the minister again whether he or the government would give consideration to establishing a floor price for wheat at the International Grains Arrangement minimum in order to protect the grain farmer from the effects of undercutting the prices presently established, and from other possibilities that may be envisaged as a result of the United States statement?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, this idea and many others are being examined by the government.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister who will represent Canada at the proposed meeting in Washington next week to discuss the whole question of the International Grains Arrangement?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I will be, accompanied by members of the Wheat Board and Canadian government officials.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, again in respect of wheat.

Since a socialist majority has been elected in Manitoba, are the prospects for the sale of wheat any better, especially in the socialist countries of the world?

LABOUR RELATIONS**DISPUTE BETWEEN B.C. TELEPHONE AND EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is it the intention of the minister to intervene constructively in the serious and disruptive dispute between the British Columbia Telephone Company and its employees?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, this strike is unfortunate inasmuch as this is the first time in almost 50 years that there has been a strike in this particular industry in British Columbia. Both parties are aware that mediation services are available and when they feel it necessary to ask the Department of Labour for assistance they will probably do so.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Crowfoot on a supplementary.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour regarding another labour condition on the west coast.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question does not appear to be supplementary and I will return to the hon. member in a moment.

POLLUTION**EXHAUST FUMES FROM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I should like first of all to compliment the minister of health on his courageous and successful stand against the dangers of cigarette smoking. I should like also to ask the minister about other dangers in our environment, and specifically to ask him what steps he is taking to prod his laggard colleagues into compelling filtration of harmful exhaust fumes emitted by road vehicles.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking for a statement of a general nature that should normally be made on motions.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR STUDENTS**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Would the minister undertake to make a statement on motions, before the house adjourns for a recess, in order to bring the house up to date on the situation