

*Oral Questions*

Canadian Wheat Board, the Minister of Justice. Could he inform the House and the country what answer he gave the Prime Minister of India to her request to buy seven million tons of wheat from Canada?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, there was no such request.

[*Later:*]

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Justice. Is he stating that the Prime Minister of India did not want to buy any wheat from Canada when she was in Ottawa recently?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I was not involved directly in discussions. So far as I know, the question of grain needs came up in a general way. Any specific request would not ordinarily be made on a prime ministerial level, whether on the Indian side or on ours, but would be directed to the Canadian Wheat Board. As of several days ago, in my last discussion with the Canadian Wheat Board about the subject, no specific request had been made.

The last discussions with India in any positive way in connection with purchasing grain were several months ago when a sale was made to India and when the Wheat Board offered India additional quantities which were not taken up.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a last supplementary, but I have to remind hon. members that we are now asking questions and giving answers on the matter which is to be the order of the day. However, the hon. member is recognized for a supplementary.

**Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my supplementary to the right hon. Prime Minister. Could he inform the House whether or not in talks between himself and the Prime Minister of India any discussion took place concerning their desire to purchase additional grain, and what was the answer he gave?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I would confirm in exact terms the answer given by the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. The question was raised. The Prime Minister did discuss with me the possibility of their making such requests, but no specific and clear request was made for any purchase of wheat.

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**NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD****EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP—REQUEST THAT ONE NEW MEMBER BE NATIVE PERSON**

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Now that the Solicitor General and the chairman of the National Parole Board have indicated that membership of the board is to be expanded, and since 10 per cent and in some provinces over 25 per cent of the inmates in federal penal institutions are of Indian ancestry, would the Solicitor General at least ensure that one of these new appointments to the Parole Board is a native person?

[*Mr. Horner (Crowfoot):*]

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I already have that under consideration.

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**SHIPPING****UNITED STATES MARITIME ADMINISTRATION SUBSIDY TO SECOND GREAT LAKES BULK CARRIER—ACTION TO OFFSET EFFECT ON CANADIAN CARRIERS**

**Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the recently announced granting of an operating subsidy by the United States maritime administration to a U.S. carrier, this being the second Great Lakes bulk operator to receive such a subsidy, and in view of the fact that such a subsidy most certainly will place our Canadian Great Lake bulk carriers at a serious disadvantage, what action is the Canadian government planning to take to offset the thrust of this unilateral action by an agency of the United States government?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, this is surely something that worries us. We are observing the situation to see what the impact will be on the Canadian trade and shipping industry, and as soon as we have enough information we will probably intervene.

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**FISHERIES****REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO NOVA SCOTIA LOBSTER FISHERMEN FOLLOWING STORM LOSSES**

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the disastrous storm that struck Nova Scotia last Sunday and literally destroyed the means of livelihood of the vast majority of lobster fishermen in my constituency, many of whom were wiped out completely, would he use his influence with the Premier of Nova Scotia in order that the lobster fishermen will be declared residents of a disaster area and thereby become eligible for federal and provincial financial assistance?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, due to the storms over the weekend there has been considerable damage done to the gear and vessels of inshore fishermen in a number of provinces in the Atlantic region. The federal fisheries service is endeavouring to assess the extent of the damage and working with the provinces we will, hopefully, work out a solution.

**Mr. Muir:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the minister for his reply. In view of the seriousness of the situation I wish to direct my supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that when earthquakes, floods, famine and tidal waves create disasters in other countries throughout the world they readily receive assistance from the Canadian government, would the right hon. gentleman take the initiative in seeing to it that similar recognition will be given to Canadians in my area