

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

statement, but if there is I will be glad to do so because I think this is a very important topic, indeed.

**Mr. Lewis:** I was not suggesting anything about the quality in respect of dissatisfaction. We are all talking about the amount which is being spent and the amount of research and development being done in Canada. May I ask the President of the Treasury Board whether the government is reducing or refusing to increase, which ever may be the case, its appropriations for research and development, and whether as a result of that there is a likelihood of loss of scientific personnel to Canada in this area?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question asked by the hon. member is of very wide scope. I allowed the first question because the hon. member was asking whether a statement would be made on motions. I suggest the matter should not be pursued from there.

**AIRPORTS****OTTAWA—LANDING FEES CHARGED AT UPLANDS**

**Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is of an urgent nature. Is the Minister of Transport aware that as a result of non-competitive landing fees charged by his department and assessed against international flights, air carriers have cancelled their intention to use Uplands airport as a refuelling stop, resulting in extensive loss of revenue to the local economy?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the allegations. I am not at all sure they are correct, but I will be glad to look into them and make a detailed report to the hon. member.

**GRAIN****BOX CARS REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY OF MINIMUM QUOTA**

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, was the Minister of Transport had any assurance from the railway companies that they will be able to provide the necessary box cars to enable all grain producers in western Canada to deliver a minimum five bushel quota before the end of the crop year which ends the 31st of this month?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** I do not know that I can answer [Mr. Drury.]

the question categorically, Mr. Speaker. I can say that this is a matter which involves both my department and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. We are having conversations daily with the railway companies with a view to bringing about the result to which the hon. member has referred.

**Mr. Muir (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister will discuss this matter with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and report to the house before the end of the week?

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****TORTURING OF GREEK POLITICAL PRISONERS**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether the Canadian government will look into the detailed report smuggled out of Greece, and presented to the Commission on Human Rights in Strasbourg, which indicates that 15 women political prisoners in that country were tortured by Greek officials? If it is discovered that the report is authentic, will the government take the appropriate action to denounce this inhumanity which is quite inconsistent with the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations, to which both Canada and Greece belong?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I can answer the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, but the second part is hypothetical. I will certainly investigate the charges that have been made.

**AGRICULTURE****DAMAGE TO FARM ECONOMY THROUGH ESCALATION OF INTEREST RATES**

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he received a telegram from the 80,000 member Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in the last few days to the effect that escalating interest rates are seriously damaging the farm economy and that money required for agricultural productive purposes should be made available at lower cost? If he did, what was the minister's reply to this important representation?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** I have not received the telegram, Mr. Speaker.