

AIR TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO IMPLEMENTATION OF
REGIONAL POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Now that the Canadian Transport Commission has recommended the discontinuance of subsidies for air transport on the prairies, will the minister advise the house when the regional air policy announced by the government in September, 1966, will be implemented so the prairies can be assured of continued air service?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): This matter is under most active consideration, Mr. Speaker. It is important, and we are searching for better methods of providing excellent service to my friend and our many other friends on the prairie provinces. We think this can be achieved.

Mr. Dinsdale: May I ask a supplementary question. Can the minister indicate the reason for the delay in implementing this policy which, as he has just indicated, is very important?

Mr. Hellyer: Because it is so important; we want to make the right decision to assure provision of the kind of service my friend would like to see.

Mr. L. R. Sherman (Winnipeg South): Does the minister not agree that time for consideration of this service on the prairies has already gone beyond the point where—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question is argumentative.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

MANITOBA—ARDA AGREEMENT RESPECTING
INTERLAKE REGION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric Stefanson (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. Can the minister now answer the question I asked him on February 15 relating to the vocational training school program for the interlake area of Manitoba outlined in the ARDA-FRED agreement? Can he give assurance now that there will be no cut-back in this program?

[Translation]

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry and Rural Development): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are being carried on between the two departments.

27053—448½

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR FIXED DATES
FOR FINAL PAYMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Enns (Portage-Neepawa): My question is for the Minister of Trade and Commerce and relates to the wheat board. In view of the increasing expectation that farmers will operate on a businesslike basis, and in view of the fact that payment dates vary from year to year, will the minister consider recommending to the wheat board that fixed dates be set upon which the final payments may be made year after year?

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I will be glad to communicate with the wheat board. This suggestion would be very difficult to implement though because the final date depends on the size of the crop and the ability of the board to sell it. We are trying to expedite the payments; we are doing everything possible to get cheques out as quickly as the wheat board can.

Mr. R. D. McLelland (Rosetown-Biggar): May I ask a supplementary question. Is the Canadian Wheat Board closing its books today in so far as the 1966-67 wheat pool is concerned, as previously announced, or is the board asking for additional time as a result of the government's action on Monday?

Mr. Winters: No, there has been no request for additional time.

Mr. McLelland: Is the board closing its books today?

Mr. Winters: As far as I recall. I have forgotten the specific dates I gave to the house about a week ago, but they are the same dates.

AGRICULTURE

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF SUBSIDIES
FOR HOGS, LAMBS AND CHEESE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I wonder if, following the representations made by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the minister has decided to reverse the decision to reduce the quality subsidies on hogs, lambs and cheese?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the very carefully prepared and