

[Translation]

EAST PAKISTAN—CONDEMNATION BY CANADIAN  
GOVERNMENT OF ATROCITIES

**Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is he in a position to tell the House whether the Canadian government has made known to the government of Pakistan its vigorous and unequivocal censure of the atrocities perpetrated in East Pakistan?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as I have said in the House, we have made it known that we favour a political settlement of this situation and not bloodshed, some of which unfortunately has already taken place.

**Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the government consider sending independent observers from this parliament to the scene, as other countries of the Commonwealth have done, possibly a member of the opposition and one of those parliamentary secretaries who are lying around and not doing anything?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

USE OF NET SOCIAL BENEFIT RATHER THAN GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AS INDICATOR OF PROGRESS

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I would refer him to the concept advanced by the Prime Minister of using net social benefit as a better indicator of economic progress in this country than gross national product. Can he tell us whether the Dominion Bureau of Statistics or Statistics Canada, for which he is responsible to the House, has undertaken a study of its efficacy as a measure of economic progress? Also, has this been referred to the Economic Council of Canada as a useful tool, or is this idea merely some speech writer's pipedream?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, this is a new concept. Since the Bureau of Statistics is interested in moving with the times, I presume they will study it and try to find out how it can be defined in statistical terms.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister to inform himself whether this is a concrete fact and whether Statistics Canada is actually considering net social benefit as a tool in measuring economic progress, or is this merely some speech writer's pipedream?

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I will try to satisfy my curiosity and that of my hon. friend too.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS TO COMPENSATE FARMERS FOR LOSS IN NET INCOME—TWO-PRICE SYSTEM

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Since the government of which the hon. gentleman is a member took office in 1968 there has been a drop in net farm income of over \$500 million.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly ask his question?

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, since the proposed \$100 million acreage payments will be mostly, if not all, made with money which the government has saved on grain storage and losses in grain pools, can the Acting Prime Minister advise the House whether the government will now consider supplementary or deficiency payments particularly to the grain industry in western Canada to make up some of the \$500 million loss in net income?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is a very complicated question. My short answer is that the payments that are going to be made exceed anything that has been done in the past.

**Mr. Benjamin:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the drop in net farm income in Manitoba of over 100 per cent, and of nearly 100 per cent in Saskatchewan, will the minister now advise whether the government of Canada will agree to a two-price system for grain?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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[Translation]

HARBOURS

AMENDMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question I want to direct to the Minister of Transport.

Could he tell this House whether he intends to announce significant changes to the operating chart of the Canadian harbour administration at the seminar on transportation to be held May 13 next at the Sheraton-Mount Royal Hotel, or whether these changes will be announced in the House of Commons?

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the whole question is now being examined. I had not up to now given any thought to just where the announcement might be made. If a new policy is involved I shall show what I hope hon. members will agree is my usual respect for the House and make it here.