

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, as the Prime Minister has indicated there is an initial meeting being held of the national grains council, or at least of the co-ordinating committee prior to the formation of the council in the west, and certainly the very grave problem that affects our western farmers at this time, I can assure the right hon. gentleman, is under very active consideration by the Minister of Agriculture and his entire department.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, could the minister let the house know what action in particular is being taken? As far as the grains council is concerned, this council will not meet the problem faced by the farmers in western Canada today.

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, with regard to any specific action requiring legislative authority, or any specific action that the house should be informed of to meet the very serious situation that exists in the west, if special action is necessary, I am sure the Minister of Agriculture would make an announcement in this house in due course. It may well be that with P.F.A.A. and other emergency measures that are currently available under federal legislation the problem can be met under existing agencies.

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I should like to direct to the Prime Minister or the Acting Minister of Agriculture. Will either of these gentlemen confirm the rumour that Canada's best wheat salesman will be appointed to head the grains council, namely Hon. Alvin Hamilton?

**Mr. Greene:** You would not like me to answer that idle rumour.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the acting minister. Have any plans been made for the delivery of out of condition tough and damp grain and, if so, are they ready for implementation? In addition, has a special allocation of railway stock been made for the movement of that grain to the terminals for drying?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, I believe arrangements have been made with the railways. Also I understand arrangements have been made to use the interior elevators in order to help ease the difficult situation that currently exists.

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. May I ask the right hon. gentleman why it was that in the absence of the other two ministers, he could not indicate who was the acting minister?

### WATER RESOURCES

#### INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jerry Pringle (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Since a situation of extreme urgency is arising from water developments now taking place in British Columbia, as evidenced by urgent requests from civic bodies in British Columbia, can the minister assure the house that the Canada water act will be introduced in the near future?

**Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, this matter is of urgent concern not only to my hon. friend but also to my department and to the government. I wish to assure the hon. member that it is the intention of the government to seek an early opportunity, consonant with the demands on the time of the house, to bring such a water act before this house.

**Mr. Pringle:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister refer the subject matter of water use to the standing committee on natural resources and public works?

**Mr. Greene:** Mr. Speaker, we will consider appropriate action as to the direction of the bill to a committee when the bill comes before the house.

Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet, last week the hon. member for Fraser Valley West asked whether progress has been made in the setting of Canadian standards on water pollution to include biological, chemical and physical aspects of the question. As the house knows, the federal government has offered to establish a national advisory committee on water pollution to study and recommend national water quality objectives. I wish to inform him that discussions on this matter have been held with the provinces, and that these discussions are continuing.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister also refer to this committee the very alarming situation that has developed as a