

Inquiries of the Ministry

matter of great importance because this river is the greatest Atlantic salmon and salmon spawning river in the world. If so, what is his department doing about it?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): We are aware of this, Mr. Speaker. What happened was that during a cleaning process a pipeline accidentally burst causing a spill of toxic pollutants into the Miramichi River system. The damage to fish life in this area is quite serious. The situation is being closely observed. The company is working closely with the Department of Fisheries on an over-all program for pollution abatement. They have already spent \$500,000 to control toxicity from plant waste.

Some hon. Members: Read on.

Mr. Hees: Are you on chapter 2 yet?

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. I wonder whether the Parliamentary Secretary has completed his statement?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to indicate that a lot of serious work is being done on this problem. We are concerned about what the hon. member has said in connection with the Miramichi River. I am sure some members of the opposition are aware of this problem, even if the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings is not.

Mr. Hees: He is now.

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**WALK-OUT BY LINESMEN AND DOCK WORKERS
—ACTION TO RESTORE OPERATIONS**

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that no ships have been able to use the St. Lawrence Seaway since 10.15 yesterday morning owing to a strike by linesmen and dock workers, what action is the government going to take to restore the operation of the seaway?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had notice of this matter only about an hour ago and have not had time to ask the Minister of Transport whether any action has been taken. I know that the head of the seaway—

Mr. Forrestall: Send them all to Halifax.

Mr. Trudeau: That is right.

[Mr. Smith (Northumberland-Miramichi).]

GRAIN**EXTENSION OF INCREASED BARLEY QUOTA TO
ALBERTA TO PERMIT DELIVERY BEFORE
END OF CROP YEAR**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board and pertains to the increased barley quota recently announced for Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the minister's reply that future good sales would allow similar movements from Alberta. Is the minister now in a position to assure the House that such sales will take place prior to the end of the current crop year, thus allowing the producers of Alberta equitable deliveries corresponding to those in Saskatchewan and Manitoba?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to the previous statements which were made, not only the one referred to by the hon. member but the others associated with it, indicating that the quota in the eastern region of the prairies was also terminable as soon as adequate barley supplies came forward. The sales referred to are indeed frequently sales that have in fact been made, and it is a question of delivery times and of obtaining supplies for those deliveries.

Mr. Mazankowski: A supplementary question. In view of the fact that the quota is terminable, which will in effect undermine the concept of orderly and equalized delivery, can the minister indicate to the House whether such provisions will become the pattern for future deliveries of grains throughout the designated region?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is generally understood that it is extremely important to move the appropriate grains required for market, and that that principle at times does take precedence over equality of opportunity of delivery among the producers at any given point in time.

ACTUAL SURPLUS IN STORAGE

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the fact that the members of the grain trade hold the view that all available stocks of rapeseed have now been committed to the export market, does the minister believe that this could indicate discrepancies in the forecasts of the surplus position of all grains in store in western Canada?