

ever, both problems have been solved and we will be trying again to move grain as rapidly as possible.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, the source of the number I quoted was a press article regarding a statement by a man by the name of Otto Lang.

Yesterday, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce made reference to the Bible. I would like now to get an answer from the New Testament. Why are we purchasing, with farmers' money, new hopper cars when after the first 21 weeks of the crop year there are on CN and CP lines a daily average of 1,235 cars waiting to be unloaded, and when the rate of unloading at the port of Vancouver is 442 cars? Why are we buying new cars with farmers' money when we cannot unload even a third of the number of cars waiting?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my opening remarks in answer to the first question, I feel that the hon. member is misquoting. The figure the hon. member mentioned has nothing to do with Vancouver. If I spoke about 400,000 tons, that was a reference to how far we are behind in our exports this year compared with last year, which is quite a different matter. It has nothing to do with the question the hon. member is asking. The next time he reads about statements by Otto Lang, let him get an official interpretation.

An hon. Member: We need one.

Mr. Lang: The point the hon. member misses is that the hopper cars being ordered are being ordered for the latter part of 1979 and 1980, and the fact that the terminals have been having difficulties this year, and therefore there have been cars available with loads, does not diminish the clear requirement for the additional cars. We are paying good money for repairs and for additional cars which the Canadian Wheat Board has decided should be purchased.

● (1500)

Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that as the years go by we will have to move much more grain, and by 1985 we are looking at the movement of 30 million tonnes of grain to export, 50 per cent higher than current records.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

SALES TAX ON STORM WINDOWS AND DOORS

Mr. Jack Hare (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue and it has to do with energy conservation in the home. It relates to the government's decision to reimpose the federal sales tax on storm windows and doors in the November budget.

In a letter to my office, the minister stated that the tax exemption had been removed for storm windows and doors, including double and triple-glass windows, because glass is less efficient in energy conservation than solid wall construction.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Hare: I should like to ask the minister to explain this rationale. Does he wish to suggest that homes in cold climates should have no windows or, rather, is he worried that people will take advantage of this tax exemption to build glass houses?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, I think I had better look at that letter again.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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ARTS AND SCIENCES

DISBURSEMENT OF LOTO CANADA FUNDS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Under the provisions of Bill C-41, cabinet, and not an independent agency such as the Canada Council, will be responsible for disbursing Loto Canada funds for the arts.

In view of the concern expressed by the cultural community about keeping these grants free from political influence, will the minister commit the government to amend the bill to allow independent agencies such as the Canada Council to disburse these funds?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, under the legislation the disbursement of Loto Canada funds is not the responsibility of cabinet but is in the hands of the Secretary of State. I think it would be extremely undesirable to place it in the hands of an agency such as Canada Council, for then there might be a danger that these funds would become absorbed in the ordinary operating expenditures of these agencies, and it is my purpose to ensure that these funds are kept apart to ensure that the operating funds are supplemented but that these funds are kept for their special purpose.

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, that is an incredible answer, given the kind of cutbacks this government has imposed upon the cultural community. I should like to ask the minister the following question. Given the lack of adequate funding for the arts over the past few years, and the announced cutback of several million dollars in grants for arts and culture for 1979-80, can the minister assure the House that the new revenues gained from Loto Canada will be treated for what they are, additional revenues for the arts community, and that he will maintain ongoing funding under the regular formula to which we are accustomed? To argue otherwise is to argue how ineffective the minister is in cabinet in speaking up for grants for the arts.

Mr. Roberts: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wants to get into the details of the expenditure allocations, it would take a long time to do so, but I would be able to show him that his statement is not an accurate one. I do not think I can usefully add much more to my previous answer to the hon. member.