

needs assistance and meets the requirements, I would then be prepared to have the matter considered further within my department. As I indicated to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism), we are looking for further information in this regard, and he has undertaken to keep me advised.

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● (1130)

GRAIN

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DELIVERY PERMITS FOR PRODUCERS IN AREA AFFECTED BY TORNADO

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): First of all, I want to thank the Minister of Finance for that answer. Obviously I am disappointed that there has been no representation from the government of Manitoba, but I would like to ask a supplementary question of the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. I asked him on Tuesday whether he would urge the Canadian Wheat Board to give special consideration to granting special permits to persons who require them in order that grain, which is now exposed to the elements because of loss of buildings may be delivered. Can the minister give me an up to date report on whether this has been done and those special permits will be forthcoming?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): As I indicated yesterday to the hon. member, I have not had word on that as yet, but I do expect an answer very shortly.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

OTTAWA-QUEBEC AGREEMENT ON FEED GRAIN ASSISTANCE—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Last week I put a question to his parliamentary secretary about the signing of an agreement between the federal government and that of the province of Quebec concerning a subsidy of some \$35 million for the transport of feed grains. Can the minister tell the House today whether that agreement has been signed between Ottawa and Quebec and, if so, when it will become effective?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): It has not been signed as of this day, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.

In a reply to the National Assembly, the Quebec minister of agriculture stated that he was ready to sign but that he was waiting for the signature of his federal counterpart. This is

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what he said: I don't understand why there should be so much dilly-dallying.

I know the expression is not very parliamentary but I am merely repeating what he said. Can the minister tell us whether there is some valid reason, or some difficulty or other to justify the fact that he has not yet signed that agreement?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, the proposal is similar to one made to the province of Ontario where feed grain assistance was also discontinued in a big part of the province. That agreement was signed with the province of Ontario some time ago. I only use this as an example of how expeditiously we acted. When the province is willing to sign, we sign the agreement. Discussions took place between Quebec and myself, but the Quebec minister and the Quebec government were reluctant to sign the same kind of agreement as we made with the province of Ontario.

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POST OFFICE

MEASURES TO IMPROVE DELIVERY—ALLEGATION MAIL ARRIVES IN DAMAGED CONDITION IN NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. It concerns allegations that were made by an angry northerner, Andy Peiffer of Nanisivik, Northwest Territories in a letter to the Postmaster General to the effect that mail takes three weeks to a month to arrive from southern Canada, and much of it arrives in a damaged condition. Arising from these complaints, what is the minister doing to improve the quality of northern mail service, and specifically in light of the humiliating defeat of the regular postal service by both bicycles and pony express in the great contest held in Manitoba this week, is the minister considering reintroducing mail delivery by dog sled into the north?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Postmaster General): Not in the summer time, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: With your record, we are surprised.

Mr. Blais: First of all, I am not accepting defeat at all. The cyclists who went from Melita in the hon. gentleman's riding to Morris were bonded contractors of the Post Office who carried the mail in accordance with the rules of the game as they were set down for the pony express. The hon. gentleman knows fully well the system that is in place in his particular area. He has indicated to me that he is satisfied with the postal service in the Dauphin area, indeed in the Winnipeg area, and I have no reason to doubt his word in that regard. I am very proud and pleased with the service that the greater Winnipeg area is receiving.