

had received a number of reports from Alberta and other western provinces of farmers who have allegedly sold grain over their quotas.

The administration of the quota system is the responsibility of the Canadian Wheat Board. Each year a number of quota violations are brought to the attention of the board and the board decides what action is necessary, including prosecutions of producers and agents involved, as circumstances warrant.

The Canadian Wheat Board has received reports during the current crop year of over-deliveries, and in these instances the board has requested the R.C.M.P. to investigate these violations. After completion of the investigations the board will decide whether prosecutions are warranted.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce with respect to the answer he gave me earlier. In view of the cash shortage of farmers faced with growing debts because of the failure to sell wheat, would the minister not consider suspending the penalties provided under the act?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, to what cash advance payment is the hon. member referring?

Mr. Mazankowski: This is with respect to over-deliveries.

Mr. Pepin: We have new legislation to increase the amounts provided.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, my question refers to prosecutions with respect to the over-delivery of quotas.

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that if somebody is in some way violating the quota system, he must be prevented from so doing, because other producers in the west will be damaged by his action.

PROVISION OF DRYING AND STORAGE FACILITIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture a brief but urgent question of which I have given him notice. Can the minister inform the house what action the government is taking to provide drying and storage facilities for tough, damp or damaged grain resulting from irregular harvest conditions on the prairies?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question, although I did not get it until after I reached the chamber. The board of grain commissioners have facilities at five of the inland terminals, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, where there is a capacity of something like 7,000 bushels per hour for drying this grain. There have been discussions to move sufficient grain out of these elevators so there is enough space around the drying facilities that maximum use can be made of them. In addition, the drying capacity at the lakehead is somewhere between 400,000 and 500,000 bushels a day, depending upon how much moisture needs to be withdrawn from the grain. The Minister of Trade and Commerce may wish to comment further on this matter, but I understand the wheat board has now given priority to the movement of some lower grades, which would include the grades of which the hon. member speaks.

[*Translation*]

TRADE

TEXTILES—REQUEST FOR LIMITATION OF IMPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Early this week, representatives of the textile industry and the labour unions of that industry recommended strongly to the government limitations the importation of textile products from low income countries. Has the government made a decision as to this recommendation?

Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at that meeting, the other day, which was very useful for all parties concerned, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) talked on behalf of the government and explained that the whole matter of imports was under study at the present time, that we were negotiating with other parties, and that we had even suggested to the industry some terms of reference for an investigation which might, if the industry is agreeable, get to the bottom of some allegations.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question. When additional information has been collected on that matter, does the government intend to make a statement in the house?