

this new set of measures aimed at dealing with this very critical and very disturbing matter.

[English]

Mr. Althouse: Madam Speaker, the answer was that a minister has been appointed. The concern of the people in the west is that we have not heard who has been appointed. We have not heard what kind of programs are being proposed. We were told that there was to be an announcement on Thursday. There was no reason given as to why the announcement was not made.

There is a great deal of concern in western Canada and in this House as to just what these proposals are. When will we be hearing the details of them? It is fine to know they are being considered and discussed, but what are the details?

● (1425)

Mr. De Bané: Madam Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that the series of measures will be announced this week.

Mr. Althouse: Madam Speaker, I would like to direct my final supplementary to the Minister of Transport, who also speaks for the Wheat Board.

Mr. Epp: He does?

Mr. Althouse: Feed supplies are extremely short in the whole western region of North America. Montana producers are looking north for feed supplies. British Columbia hay producers are concerned that their hay will not be fit to eat because of volcanic ash. In short, the sources of supply are diminished more than just as a result of the drought.

What commitment can we have from the minister, the government and the Wheat Board with regard to maintaining initial prices for feed grains and for grains at the current year level, so that producers will be encouraged to keep their grains on the farm instead of trying to get them out before the price drops and the new crop year begins? Can the minister advise when an announcement will be made?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, my information is that the Wheat Board is trying to keep a very delicate balance between the interests of stability of exports and the requirements of the Canadian domestic situation. They are not making new sales, and they are monitoring the situation as well as they can. This is a very difficult set of circumstances.

With respect to initial prices, the Minister of State responsible for the Wheat Board said, on May 26, that he would review the situation before the end of the crop year. In a letter which he recently addressed to the hon. member for Prince Albert, he indicated he might do so in June.

Oral Questions

CONSUMER AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION TO ASSIST CREDIT UNIONS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It arises out of the many requests I have received and, I presume, members on both sides of the House have received with respect to the new amendments to the Small Loans Act.

As the minister is aware, credit unions across this country are not able to lend money at over 12 per cent? Will legislation be brought forward soon to change this and give the credit unions a break along with the chartered banks, which do not need it nearly as much?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, the options that are now open to the government range from the revision of this act to minor amendments. There has been no final decision yet. We are studying the matter within an interdepartment committee, and as soon as a decision is reached, I shall be pleased to inform the House.

[English]

Mr. Darling: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the minister's comments, but I would assume that a simple amendment could be brought forward, or a simple bill, without the legal gobbledegook and jargon stating that they can lend money at over 12 per cent. Can the minister give a commitment that this will be done before the long, hot summer recess?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): What recess?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: I am pleased to see how strongly the hon. member is expressing his hopes that a bill be adopted to solve the problems outlined. I just hope that when I introduce the bill, he will work as strenuously at convincing his colleagues on the other side of the House to give the bill speedy passage.

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[English]

AIR TRANSPORT

ENGINE FAILURES ON AIR CANADA AIRCRAFT—CALL FOR INQUIRY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In Los Angeles this past weekend an engine of an Air Canada L-1011 caught fire on take-off and the passengers had to be evacuated. This is the second such Air Canada incident in Los Angeles in the past year. Also, this past weekend three engines failed on an Air Canada 747. Will the minister contact the president of Air Canada and request a complete and detailed inquiry into these incidents, especially since at the Justice Dubin air safety inquiry witnesses stated that Air Canada has been operating