

unions in the armed forces. To do so would create a most anomalous situation. The men in the armed forces would be subject to direction as to when they should or should not act, depending whether satisfied with their salary levels. Can the minister give the House and the country the assurance that the formation of unions in the armed forces will not be condoned or permitted?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** I would imagine that if and when such an eventuality became reality it would be the responsibility of the President of the Treasury Board as well as to express the government's policy on this matter in the future since it would not under any circumstances come under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Labour.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** May I ask the minister whether he or his departmental officials have been giving any study to this unusual suggestion?

**Mr. Mackasey:** I know it is unusual for armed forces to be unionized, with the exception of Sweden where they are organized, but I have not been giving any study to this possibility at all.

[Later:]

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, my question arises out of the questions asked by the right hon. member for Prince Albert, and I direct it to the Prime Minister. Has he yet replied to Mr. C. A. Edwards, president of the Public Service Alliance, with respect to his request that the full rights of collective bargaining be extended to the Canadian Armed Forces? If so, could he indicate the nature of his reply? Was it negative or positive?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I have had some correspondence with Mr. Edwards indicating in a general way that the whole law of collective bargaining as regards the Public Service is being reviewed by the government, and that we will be looking at various aspects which have already been brought to our attention by Mr. Edwards and his association.

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### HEALTH

#### BIRTH CONTROL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PROGRAM TO PREVENT UNWANTED PREGNANCIES

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of information today that the number of school-girl pregnancies in Metropolitan Toronto far exceeds those for the entire country of Sweden, when will the minister make his promised statement on his program for birth control in Canada?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** I would advise the hon. member that I have not studied the particular figures for Toronto—perhaps the hon. member might consult her deputy leader in that

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regard—but I have already issued a statement concerning the department's program on family planning. We have indicated the areas where we are conducting research. We have also indicated that we are prepared to back those national organizations wishing to get under way a communications policy in this area. We have also indicated that there are cost-sharing possibilities under the Canada Assistance Plan. I do not know what further information the hon. member would like.

**Mrs. MacInnis:** A few days ago the minister promised he would make a statement to the House. It is that statement I am inquiring about. When will he make it?

**Mr. Munro:** I will check my undertaking in that regard, if I did so undertake.

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### GRAIN

#### PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION PLAN—INCLUSION OF LIFT PROGRAM PAYMENTS IN FARM CASH RECEIPTS

**Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot):** I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration who is also in charge of the Wheat Board with regard to his statement tabled today. Will he clarify an obvious question with regard to the eligibility of farm cash receipts? Would payments under Operation Lift be included as eligible cash receipts in determining the amount paid out to each producer?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, while I did indicate by tabling in the House today some further details about the government's position in regard to the proposed legislation, it will be most fruitful if technical details are examined at the time the legislation is before the House.

#### PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION PLAN—PURPOSE OF TRANSITIONAL PAYMENT—MAKING UP OF POOL DEFICITS

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Without going into a lot of details which might reveal the weakness of the plan, may I ask the minister whether the provision for the special payment of \$100 million to Canadian Wheat Board permitholders in 1970-71 as a transitional payment will follow a removal from liability of the federal government for storage of wheat on farms, which last year amounted to more than \$50 million? Also, will it be conditional on removing the present practice at the end of each crop year whereby, if there is a loss in the wheat pool, the government makes it up, which last year amounted to more than \$50 million. Is this simply a pre-election declaration?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** I am glad that the right hon. gentleman recognizes that it is a good plan and therefore he thinks it may have something to do with us being favoured by the Prairie region. As the statement indicates, if the right hon. gentleman would read it in full, the total proposal is that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act is terminated and