

Inquiries of the Ministry

Wheat Board quota system and, if so, will he make a statement to the House on motions on this urgent and important subject?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): We do not have the final report from the group of men advising us on the quota system, but I hope to have it at an early date and then to make a statement on the proposed quota system or any changes in it.

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PLANS TO INCREASE SALES ON LONDON MARKET

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): I have a supplementary question for the minister. Would he take the first opportunity on motions to outline to the House what action the government plans to take in view of the information given to the minister and the members of the Wheat Board who were with him in London a few days ago that the reason Canada has been losing sales on the London market is that the Canadian export program has not been adjusted to meet the changing demands of that market during the past several years?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): That statement is an over-simplification of a very complicated subject. The loss of sales to the United Kingdom was due in good part to the fact that during a major portion of the year in question we were holding our minimum prices at the IGA level when many of our competitors were not, and I do not propose to make a statement on motions on that subject.

Mr. Hees: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In other words, in this government's view the customer is always wrong.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Baldwin: Are there any vacant judge-ships in Saskatchewan?

[Translation]

PROTEIN CONTENT OF CANADIAN WHEAT

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member for Frontenac wish to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Frontenac.

Mr. Dumont: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Have studies been carried out or are there some under way to ensure that Canadian wheat for exports will have a higher protein content?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): This question is under consideration at the present time, and I expect that we will be in a position to make statements on it in due course.

DEFINITION OF DURUM WHEAT—FINAL PAYMENT

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Minister without Portfolio now have a statement to make regarding the definition of Durum wheat and whether a final payment will be made on this grain?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not have any statement to make.

AGRICULTURE

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF TASK FORCE

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the importance of the report of the task force on agriculture to the farmers' spring plans and the fact that the minister has had it in his hands for the past several weeks, can he inform the House and the farmers of Canada when this report will be tabled?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, as soon as it is printed.

POSSIBLE MORATORIUM ON PAYMENTS ON FARMERS' LOANS

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture which is related to this whole topic. In light of the very stringent economic situation at present existing in the agricultural industry and more particularly in western Canada, can the minister say whether any decision has been made with respect to declaring a moratorium on the