

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Greene: Are you preaching for a call, Bob?

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, may I further ask the hon. gentleman whether part of the grant will be used to provide clothing for those students?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am amazed that such a matter has escaped my notice. I shall endeavour to find out and answer the hon. member.

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CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC FOLLOWING VICTORIA CONFERENCE

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering the correspondence between himself and the Quebec premier which he has just tabled and his very encouraging answer to Mr. Bourassa, I wish to ask him if there is any hope for constitutional reform, taking into account the fact that social security was the stumbling-block in Victoria? May we hope—

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, for my part, I am prepared to hope. I feel that the question should rather be directed to Premier Bourassa who, when he said no in Victoria, added that he needed further information. Perhaps he hopes to get this during those discussions and, in that case, everything should go well. But, once again, he is the one who should state publicly what kind of explanations and elucidation he mainly wants to obtain and what he is driving at.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT BY UNION RESPECTING OPERATION OF NEW GLASGOW OFFICE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. Could he indicate to the House, particularly for the benefit of my colleague, the hon. member for Central Nova, and myself, the response he has made, if any, to the telegram from Mr. Charles Wallace, President of Local 1231, United Steel Workers of America, with respect to the operation of the unemployment insurance office in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I received the telegram from this particular union complaining about service in the New Glasgow area. I asked for an inquiry and I find that the staff, contrary to what is said in the telegram, has not been cut. It consisted of 16 members before the new act came in and there are still 16 members there. There is no indication of delays in the Moncton-Halifax area in hearing appeal cases and there

[Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys).]

has been no difficulty in the New Glasgow area since the new act came into effect. I have asked the Unemployment Insurance Commission to get in touch with the union directly in light of conflicting versions.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST BY PRAIRIE PROVINCE MINISTERS FOR MEETING TO DISCUSS FEDERAL POLICY

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Has the minister received a request from any or all of the Ministers of Agriculture for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for a meeting to discuss proposed federal agricultural policy and in particular Bill C-244? If so, can he inform the House as to the nature of his reply?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have received a telegram asking for a meeting with the prairie agricultural ministers. The telegram was addressed to me by the Minister of Agriculture for Alberta. I suggested specifically, the date of October 1. I think it should be possible for me to meet with them on that date.

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GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT OF MONEY UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the impasse which has developed regarding Bill C-244 and the debate surrounding the administration of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act, can the minister indicate if the cabinet has now given serious consideration to paying the \$61 million due under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act as of August 1, 1970, of which amount \$40 million is owing for the 1969-70 wheat pool? I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, in hopeful anticipation that the government will abide by the law of the land while at the same time—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest again that the question period should not be used for the making or repeating of speeches which are normally made after the question period. The hon. member has asked a question and perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think I might have an opportunity a little later today to reply at greater length than you might allow at this time.

STABILIZATION BILL—AVAILABILITY OF REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL FARM UNITS

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. Can the minister say if, under the proposal for a prairie grain