

## GRAIN

PROPOSED STEPS TO TRANSPORT AND DRY  
CURRENT CROP

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Jack Horner (Crowfoot):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Having in mind the recent expensive wage settlement can he assure the house and the country that every effort will be made to get grain moving off the prairies, in view of what apparently will be a very difficult harvest and because it is of the utmost importance that grain begin to move in huge quantities?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** It goes without saying that every effort will be made to get it off. The chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board a few weeks ago indicated that this was a "wheat crisis" situation, and that 175 million bushels had to be put in position for export purposes before the closing of navigation in the seaway. This will be done in the most efficacious and most dynamic way possible.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** What steps have been taken or are planned to handle the very large amount of damp grain likely to be harvested in western Canada this year?

**Mr. Pepin:** I have a list of 16 items, but I think I would be cut off short if I attempted to list them now. The Canadian Wheat Board and private grain firms are at work in every part of the world in an effort to obtain new sales. As everybody knows, we have some difficulty in respect of the implementation of international grain arrangements. A meeting of exporters is taking place at Canberra this week and another meeting will take place in London in a few weeks of the price review commission question. At the same time as we try to protect the price structure, every opportunity is being explored to maximize our sales.

**Mr. Harkness:** I do not know whether the minister caught the import of my question. I asked what steps have been taken or are being planned in order to handle the large amount of damp grain which is likely to be harvested. In other words, have the interior elevators been cleared so their drying facilities and so on will be available?

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Pepin:** I am sorry if I did not catch the purport of the hon. gentleman's question. The drying facilities are mostly at the lakehead, and in the past weeks have not been available because of the strike. I am informed, however, that these facilities will be working on a 24 hour basis now to dry as much grain as possible.

**Mr. Horner:** Can the minister assure the house that during the long strike and wage negotiations no markets for Canadian wheat were lost?

**Mr. Pepin:** I cannot give this assurance, because this is an area of psychology. I do not know whether because of the strike some importers decided to buy elsewhere. They will not tell us, anyway. However, I know of no specific case of the specific loss of a market because of that strike.

**Mr. Horner:** Then, I assume there must have been losses.

[Later:]

**Hon. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, since the strike at the lakehead tied up all grain movements for 57 days and the same route was also tied up prior thereto by the seaway strike, what special action is contemplated by the Minister of Transport or the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that maximum movement takes place through that channel for export and domestic use until the freeze-up ties up the waterway?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, every effort will be made to see that every available ship is used to transport the maximum amount of grain before freeze-up and to minimize the effects flowing from the strike to the maximum possible extent that weather will allow. We shall also add any days at the end of the season that are feasible.

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware that the president of a major shipping line, Mr. Peter Dalgleysh, has advocated the extension of the shipping season at Churchill? Is consideration being given to the extension of the shipping season there in order to facilitate the movement of grain?

**Mr. Hellyer:** I am not aware of this suggestion but I know that the question of extending the shipping season at Churchill is under study with regard to both the short and the long term, as well as the possibility