

*Inquiries of the Ministry***EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—DENIAL OF PRIVILEGES
TO REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADIAN NEWSPAPERS**

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Would he explain to the House why Communist China denies to the representatives of Canadian Press and other Canadian news media the privileges extended to the Red Chinese press by Canada?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): We have been making representations to the government of China both before and since we entered into diplomatic relations. I can assure the hon. member that we would like to have further representation of Canadian newspapers in Peking. But of course this is a decision that can only be made by the Chinese government.

Mr. McIntosh: Would the Acting Prime Minister be prepared to table the documents in this House so that the Canadian people can judge for themselves whether or not Red China has breached the agreement that was entered into by Canada and mainland China when recognition took place?

Mr. Sharp: There are no documents of this kind. The only exchange that took place between our two governments that was of a formal character was the announcement of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

* * *

GRAIN**WHEAT—REQUEST FOR PAYMENTS DUE UNDER
TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): May I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact the special debate last night revealed that the government has no authority to refuse payments to the Wheat Board under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act for the benefit of farmers, will the government now issue instructions that these payments be made without delay?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I do not think I can add anything to what my colleague said last night in the debate. We do not consider that the government has breached the law.

Mr. Gleave: In view of this situation, is the government ready to take responsibility for all the consequences of its negative attitude toward western Canada?

* * *

[Translation]

MANPOWER**DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC RESPECTING ADULT
RETRAINING**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, even though we worked late into the night, I see the Minister of Manpower and Immigration is here and I should like to put a question to him.

In his letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Quebec premier, Mr. Bourassa, said, and I quote:

— the Quebec government would also like to inform you that, in its opinion, there would be great advantages to using the same approach in dealing with both manpower centres and adult vocational training.

In view of the circumstances, can the minister tell the House whether there has been an exchange of views or correspondence between the Quebec and Ottawa authorities on this subject?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The departments of the various provinces dealing with manpower, apprenticeship and training and the federal government are in fairly constant contact. In this particular case, we had special discussions over a period of time in regard to several issues, and these discussions may well occur again.

* * *

HOUSING**LAVAL, QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF LES
ABEILLES PROJECT**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of State in charge of housing. Would the minister make the necessary investigation and report to the House with regard to the fiasco that has arisen with regard to the project called Les Abeilles in Laval and ensure that his investigation be sufficiently deep to establish whether there has been culpable incompetence or downright dishonesty both within CMHC and by other persons involved?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): The financial difficulties of the developer have been made known to me and, as of just a few days ago, CMHC has been able to take possession of the homes in the project and to move beyond that to reassure those people who have purchased homes of the satisfactory completion of the homes. We have, in addition, extended the guarantee for the repurchase of the homes for a period up to 18 months past the date when we say these homes are in fact completed. The reaction from the people involved has been a reasonable one. In fact, I was told a couple of days ago that only seven of the purchasers may wish to take advantage of the repurchase guarantee that we have offered. Indeed, we set up offices there the other day and, in addition to dealing with people in the project now, we are having to deal with other people who are coming to ask us how they can buy homes in that project.

We are going beyond that to review the whole process leading to this difficulty that was encountered, and I will be very glad at some stage, if the evidence warrants it, to report the findings to the House.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Would the minister kindly advise the House if he intends to indicate to the House whether there was incompetence in this regard and how much additional money it is going to cost CMHC to bale out this project which has arisen out of a number of