

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

fully as I would have liked since I received the notice, but I have no information that would support the hon. member's inference.

**Mr. Murta:** A supplementary question. For some time now there have been discussions about the proposed Pembillier dam that would control flooding and provide irrigation along the Canadian and American sectors of the international border. Is any action now being contemplated by the federal government to reintroduce discussions on this very important matter?

**Mr. MacEachen:** As I understand the situation, Mr. Speaker, it is under active surveillance and discussions will likely take place.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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**GRAINS****RAPSEED—OBJECTIONS BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO POSSIBLE CLOSING OF FUTURES MARKET AND INCLUSION UNDER WHEAT BOARD**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister who reports for the wheat board. It is in connection with rapeseed to which reference has been made during the last couple of days. Is the minister aware of the fact that in Holland, Japan and Germany, where there are large purchasers of rapeseed, strong objections have been taken to closing the futures market? Indeed, the indication is that it would strike a tremendous blow against the expansion of rapeseed production in Canada.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am certainly aware of quite a bit of conversation about the rapeseed market and the futures market, probably based, of course, on an earlier erroneous report that there was an immediate move afoot to make a change with regard to the marketing of rapeseed and several other grains. I presume, with the clarification that no such change is being made and that the futures market is in no way interfered with, that any such concern should be allayed.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have before me a number of cables that I received today expressing fears for our rapeseed markets along the lines I have indicated. Because of the uncertainty of the government's attitude in producing a bill with an amendment permitting the Wheat Board to have control over three types of seed grains, will the minister consider holding up the bill until an opportunity is available to the government and to the House of Commons in committee to hear the representations, because what is included in the bill is a threat that concerns these purchasers?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any threat contained in the bill and that has been a cause of

[Mr. MacEachen.]

concern. There has been concern based on an erroneous report. I think it has been allayed by the assurance I have given that no change will be made without the fullest consultation. Indeed, I am glad to say again that certainly on our part we have no intention of making any change without the very fullest support of the producers and consultations with the trade.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The minister says he has no intention of making any change without consultation. Then why bring in a bill to permit the board to do the thing that he says they are not going to do?

**Mr. Lang:** This question will no doubt be discussed when the bill is before the House, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of reasons for doing this which I will be glad to explain at that time. Over the years there have been fairly strong representations on this subject from producer organizations. The oilseed marketing committee recommended a plebiscite in order to determine this issue. Further work is being done on the whole aspect of the issue. The issue is very complicated. In my opinion, the existing system is working very well, far better than the producers may understand.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Why ruin it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****INVESTIGATION OF INCREASE IN GASOLINE PRICES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West):** I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the minister's department investigating the recent increases in gasoline prices in British Columbia and are these increases justified and generally applicable in all of Canada west of the Ottawa river?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker there have been quite a number of gasoline and fuel oil price increases, most of which, if not all, are being investigated by the Prices and Incomes Commission. I believe the particular price increases referred to by the hon. member are in that category.

**Mr. Harding:** Are the increases in the west caused by the increase in price of oil east of the Ottawa river? Imported Venezuelan oil has jumped rather sharply. There might be a reason there for an increase in gasoline prices, but does the same apply to the western part of Canada?

**Mr. Basford:** The purpose of an inquiry is to determine the reason for something. That is why we are having an inquiry.