

*Inquiries of the Ministry*POSSIBILITY OF PRESIDENT NIXON APPEARING BEFORE  
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE DURING VISIT TO  
OTTAWA

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Can the Acting Prime Minister inform us whether approaches will be made to President Nixon with a view to arranging that he appear before an appropriate committee of parliament during his visit, as was arranged during the visit of Premier Kosygin, or so that a senior cabinet member accompanying him can appear before the committee in order that there can be a mutual exchange of views?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** I would hope, as I am sure the hon. gentleman does, that the President would be very warmly welcomed in Canada. I would hope that perhaps the President himself would have an opportunity of appearing.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** During the visit of the President is it the intention of the Prime Minister to announce one of those fantastic breakthroughs, when he will be able to tell the country that President Nixon has assured him—

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

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## GRAIN

INQUIRY AS TO PROPOSALS BY RAILWAYS TO LEASE  
ADDITIONAL LOCOMOTIVES AND FREIGHT CARS TO  
EXPEDITE MOVEMENT

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether the C.P.R. has made specific proposals to the Canadian Wheat Board offering to lease additional locomotives and freight cars and to put them exclusively into grain service for the last three months of the current crop year on the condition that the Canadian government would be prepared to pay the leasing costs? If so, can the minister inform the House of the reply made to this offer by the Wheat Board or by himself as the responsible minister?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the question of available equipment and steps required to add additional equipment to meet our ever-increasing record volume of sales—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lang:** —is under discussion between the Wheat Board and the railroads. The government is following the discussions keenly. It would be premature at this point to comment on where they stand, but I may have something further to say to the House in due course.

**Mr. Gleave:** Can the minister tell the House whether the C.N.R. has made a similar offer or whether it has been asked to make a similar offer so that the Wheat Board might be better able to meet its commitments and enter into new contracts?

**Mr. Lang:** The Wheat Board is holding discussions with both railroads.

[Mr. Sharp.]

PROVISION OF SUFFICIENT CLEAN GRAIN AT THUNDER  
BAY TO MEET COMMITMENTS WHEN SEAWAY OPENS

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary or related to the one which has just been asked. Having regard to the forecast that the St. Lawrence Seaway will open early this year, and the current widespread concern in the grain trade that there is not nearly sufficient clean grain in storage at Thunder Bay to meet our spring overseas commitments, will the minister check into this serious situation immediately with his colleague, the Minister of Transport, to ensure, if possible, that the railroads take steps at once to rectify this problem?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board is fully aware of the possibility of an early opening of the navigation season on the seaway and welcomes this very much. The Wheat Board is accordingly trying to arrange for the appropriate movement of grain to meet its needs. I understand they are satisfied with the program that is in place and that they are in close contact with the railroads to ensure that grain is moved as required.

POSSIBLE OPERATION OF VANCOUVER TERMINALS ON  
SIX OR SEVEN-DAY BASIS—PAYMENT OF OVERTIME BY  
GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board what the status is of discussions or plans concerning operating the terminals at Vancouver on a six or seven-day basis rather than on a five or five and a half day basis? If operations are to be on a six or seven-day basis, is the government giving consideration to assuming the cost of overtime pay?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that in earlier discussions the terminals indicated to the Canadian Wheat Board a willingness to move to longer periods of operation whenever that would clearly allow the unloading of more cars of grain. There has been no question of additional payment above the regular rates paid for handling of grain.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will notice that there are quite a few members seeking to ask supplementaries. We will have two or three and then go to the next subject. The hon. member for Mackenzie.

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL FREIGHT CARS TO EXPEDITE  
MOVEMENT

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask either the minister in charge of the Wheat Board or the Minister of Transport where these extra cars will come from, from the United States or elsewhere, since apparently we were not able to fulfil the need at Vancouver during the last several months?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I think it would be premature to comment on the exact source of the cars. There are some cars available and