

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had discussions two months or more ago with Mr. Darcy McKeough, Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, when he indicated to me what his borrowing intentions were. I repeated what I said at Jasper, namely, the request of the federal government to all provinces, made by my predecessor, that they seek accommodation where they could in the Canadian market. He assured me that would be done and that he would go to foreign markets only where he needed to do so. A good deal of the foreign borrowing to which the hon. member refers is in the form of roll-over and reinvestment of funds and does not involve the total exchange that he has mentioned.

Mr. Saltsman: In the minister's conversations with officials of the government of Ontario did he give any indication to them that he was willing or prepared to take action with the Bank of Canada to lower interest rates in Canada, in order to accommodate their borrowings in this country?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, even if I had outlined this I would not at this stage make it known.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

DISPUTE RESPECTING PROGRAM "SUR LE VIF"—
INTERVENTION OF MINISTER

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Could he say whether he has been requested to intervene in the present dispute between station CBOFT and the team responsible for the broadcast "Sur le vif"?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

GRAIN

BARLEY—SUGGESTED ADJUSTMENT IN ASSESSMENT OF
FREIGHT CHARGES AGAINST ALBERTA GROWERS

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice in his capacity as the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Is the minister considering any adjustment in assessing freight charges against Alberta barley growers in view of the fact that most of the barley is shipped through Vancouver rather than the Lakehead, which results in Alberta producers paying an average of six cents per bushel more than they should pay?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's figures are in error. This matter has been discussed frequently by myself with the Wheat Board. The Wheat Board has indicated to me on a number of occasions that at any time when more Alberta barley appears to be moving through Vancouver than through the Lakehead a change in rate structure may be sought.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Of course, for that to happen a change in legislation may be required, and the co-operation of the House in putting through the amendments to the Wheat Board Act now on the order paper may be of assistance in that regard.

• (1440)

FUTURES TRADING—POSSIBLE UPDATING OF ACT TO
PROVIDE FEDERAL SUPERVISION

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Has the government any intention of updating the Grain Futures Act, passed years ago but not proclaimed, in order to provide federal supervision over trading in futures on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the committee I set up to study rapeseed marketing referred to this matter and it has been under review by us. The existing Grain Futures Act would not be of much use in connection with rapeseed trading. Therefore the question we will have to put before the House is what kind of amendments may be required to make the act effective.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

NEWFOUNDLAND—DELAY IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS—
ACTION TO CORRECT PROBLEM

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the continuing problems in regard to the delays in payments to claimants under the Unemployment Insurance Act, particularly in the province of Newfoundland because of the distance between the office there and Moncton, would the minister indicate to the House whether any action is being taken to correct this problem and to relieve the pressure?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has raised this question on several occasions, and as a result of representations made some time ago I asked for a study to be made on the feasibility of an alternate computer service which would be available in Newfoundland. I should have that report this week, and I hope it is a positive one.

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS—ACTION TO PREVENT
LOANSHARK OPERATIONS

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. Speaker. A while ago there was some trouble with loansharking associated with unemployment insurance cheques. At that time the minister's parliamentary assistant who was being questioned in the House indicated that legislation might be prepared by the government. Is the government considering the preparation of such legislation and if so, what form will it take? Will it be by amendment of the Small Loans Act?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, preliminary investigation shows