

*Oral Questions*

our major grains, wheat and barley. I am happy to assure the hon. member that any system we have in the future will have those features as well.

**Mr. Gleave:** In view of the repeated vague and unsatisfactory answers the minister has given in the House to questions on this matter and in order to put the fears of farmers in eastern and western Canada at rest—

**Some hon. Members:** Order!

**Mr. Gleave:**—will the minister at an early date make a statement on motions on exactly what his and the government's policy is in regard to the handling, pricing and marketing of feed grains?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it should be well known to the hon. member, and I am sure it is to most members of the House, that we do intend to make a statement on our feed grain policy in the very near future.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. member wish to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Beaudoin:** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Joliette on a supplementary question.

FEED GRAINS—POSSIBLE ELIMINATION OF TRANSPORT  
SUBSIDY—MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board a supplementary question.

Since a number of eastern producers are concerned about the possible cancellation of transport subsidies, can the minister assure the House that these subsidies for the eastward transportation of feed grains will be maintained.

[*English*]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to forecast ahead of the announcement of the policy decision what that decision will be in regard to any of its parts. I can remind hon. members that in the Speech from the Throne we indicated that we proposed to have that policy announcement prior to August 1 and we are still some way away from that date. I understand the interest of hon. members in having a decision as early as possible, and as a result I fully expect we will be able to oblige and have the decision and an announcement well ahead of that date.

[*Mr. Lang.*]

FEED GRAINS—EFFECT OF UNITED STATES EXPORT  
EMBARGO ON CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF LIVESTOCK  
AND POULTRY

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question, arising out of the original question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, to the Minister of Agriculture who understands this problem. Is it not a fact that there is a serious shortage of sources of protein today in Canada for the feeding of livestock and poultry and that the embargo imposed by the Nixon administration will, unless something effective is done, actually paralyse and strike an almost knockout blow at the production of livestock and poultry in our country?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think we have to recognize that what the right hon. gentleman has said has some merit.

**Mr. Hees:** Go on from there.

**Mr. Whelan:** Especially the first part of what he said.

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

**Mr. Whelan:** We are concerned. We know approximately how much supply we have in Canada. We know what our potential is. We know that we must have protein for the effective production of many of our agricultural products about which we are all concerned. We are prepared to take whatever action is necessary and make whatever representation is necessary to guarantee that our producers will be looked after in the best manner possible.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the answer of the Minister of Agriculture indicates I was right when I suggested he knew something about the subject. I would ask the minister this question. Having regard to his rather frank admission that the situation is serious in the matter of the assurance of protein, can the government be expected within the next two or three days to bring forward some alternative suggestion? Is the government at the moment giving consideration to a denial of the export from Canada of certain protein producing foods to the end that no irreparable harm will be done to Canada's livestock and poultry industry?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, we are considering everything possible that we can do. The Prime Minister has already referred to the meeting this morning and there is a meeting this afternoon. We have to have all the facts on just what the United States of America intends to do because we are dependent on protein from that country, and we have to make sure, and make damn sure, where we are going.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, one further question—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the right hon. member for Prince Albert on a supplementary, then the hon. member for Crowfoot and later the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville, and will then go to the hon. member for Richmond and return to this subject later.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I have just one further question. In view of the deep urgency of the matter, has