

Inquiries of the Ministry

judgment. I will not pre-judge the sort of program he will come up with, but he is very much aware of the pitfalls.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**SUBVENTIONS FOR TRANSPORT OF
FEED GRAIN**

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he tell us by how many millions the subsidies granted for the transportation of feed grain in western Canada and in British Columbia will be reduced?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the subsidy on feed grains to eastern Canada and British Columbia will not be reduced in the current year. Indeed, the subsidies will be increased from \$21.5 million to \$22.5 million. There is such an increased volume of grain moving from the prairie area to both eastern and western Canada that it is necessary to reduce the rates as well, to keep this matter within budget limitations.

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**SUDBURY, ONT.—SUGGESTED ACTION BY
MINISTER IN NICKEL STRIKE**

Mr. Gaétan J. Serré (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since the miners' strike in the Sudbury area has been going on for more than three months, as the nickel market has substantially decreased inside and outside this country, as thousands of families find themselves in a more and more precarious condition, and also as the unemployed are calling for the federal government's intervention in this conflict, on account of the provincial mediator's failure to bring both parties to an understanding, is it the intention of the minister to make representations to the responsible authorities so as to bring this conflict to an end?

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, may I say from the outset that this naturally is a provincial matter. I wish to reassure the hon. gentleman that the provincial mediator in the dispute, Mr. Dickie, is considered one of the most respected and talented mediators in the country and I am sure

[Mr. Pepin.]

he is capable of bringing this dispute to an end. I understand talks will be resuming in a day or two. In any event, the Minister of Labour has enough federal problems on his plate without becoming involved in provincial disputes.

HOUSING**BUILDING SOCIETIES—REQUEST FOR
INCOME TAX EXEMPTION**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance which has to do with the recent announcement by the government of Ontario that it is showing interest in building societies. These, I understand, will perhaps make more money available for mortgages. Could the minister advise us whether the government has been in contact with the government of Ontario about this matter and, in particular, whether the matter of the granting of income tax concessions was discussed, since this would help with respect to the formation and operation of such societies?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, there has been no direct consultation between myself and the government of the province of Ontario. The only information I have received in this regard has come through the press and from my colleague, the minister in charge of housing, who said that he heard something about this. Perhaps the Ontario minister with responsibility in this field would like to meet with me at some time in the future.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GREECE—SUGGESTED NATO PRESSURE TO
OBTAIN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have desperately been trying to ask a question about the political situation in Greece, although I expect it could wait until the next session. I wonder how Canada responded to the appeal of the political committee of the North Atlantic Assembly last week when the suggestion was made that NATO should place concerted pressure on the government of Greece within the NATO council with a view to a rapid return to free elections, parliamentary democracy and the rule of law in that unfortunate country.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that has been the view of the Canadian government throughout. We do not believe that Greece