

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct another question to the minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McIntosh: Let me put a direct question to the minister. Does the department or the government intend to make a final payment to the Durum wheat producers?

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. McIntosh: I might also add that the way the government leaked this information through the member for Assiniboia and a senator is not the way to inform the public. I ask the minister: Are you going to pay it or are you not going to pay it?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I was not sure whether I had been left with a question or simply allegations. I should like to assure the hon. member that I have no way of knowing how something could leak which does not exist. That is something about which he is no doubt an expert. The whole question of payments is a very complex one involving final calculations before the pools can be closed, and that information on the final position is not available. Some information on the state of the law in this regard should be available to the hon. member as a result of the research staff that has so generously been made available to him.

Mr. McIntosh: I did not ask you about the pools, I asked you about the Durum wheat account. Is there a legal technicality involved in whether you can or cannot make this payment to the producers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should direct his question through the Chair, of course.

Mr. McIntosh: Mr. Speaker, I direct that question to the minister through the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Assiniboia.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, before I ask my supplementary I might point out that—

Some hon. Members: Sit down! Order, order!

[Mr. Lang.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have not more than one minute before the end of the question period. The hon. member should ask his question quickly.

Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I was about to advise that the minister—

Some hon. Members: Order, order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now down to 30 seconds.

Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia): Would the minister in charge of the Wheat Board assure the House that wheat will be moved through the west coast ports even though the government might have to revise the plans it put into effect so efficiently four months ago?

An hon. Member: "Reviving", is the right word for the government.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, at the present time we are optimistic that all products may soon be moving again from the west coast. Obviously the movement of grain through that port, as through other ports, is a matter of very fundamental importance to us. That suggestion will have to be taken into consideration if the worst comes to the worst.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Hees: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I should like to correct an error. I have done some further research since I corrected the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and I find that his figures are right.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the President of the Privy Council what business is proposed for the balance of this week and next week.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the business for Friday will be government order 49, that is the amendment to the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act, to be followed by government order 67, an amendment to the Agricultural Products Co-operative Marketing Act. On Monday next, the first item to be called will be government order 66, to amend the Supreme Court Act, to be followed by government order 68, the Shipping Conferences Bill. On Tuesday, we intend to resume the debate on government order 29 with regard to the National Parks Act, to be followed by the resumed debate on