

Oral Questions

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, precisely because of what the hon. member has raised, we sent investigating officers down, to find out what the situation is so far as our front line officers are concerned. They have a difficult job to do and I intend to do everything I can to help them, within the confines of the funds allotted to me.

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GRAIN**LARGE AMOUNT OF TOUGH WHEAT IN PRINCE RUPERT TERMINAL—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE PROBLEM**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I shall direct my questions both to the Minister of Agriculture and to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, to let them know they are not being neglected. Is the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board aware that most of the working capacity of the Prince Rupert terminal has been filled with tough wheat; that lack of drying capacity there has meant that one ship has remained idle for three weeks waiting to be loaded; that another ship now loading will be there for a total of two weeks; that a third ship was diverted to Vancouver, and that already five ships in Vancouver are waiting to load. I ask the minister, who co-ordinated the shipping of that amount of tough grain to Prince Rupert, when there was not sufficient time to get it dried for loading on ships? What action is being taken to get dry wheat in there to mix, and is he doing anything to increase those drying facilities?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the hon. member knows, the shipment of grain is co-ordinated by the Canadian Wheat Board. This particular grain was moved at a certain time in order to avoid or relieve serious congestion, particularly in the Peace River area. Whether the Canadian Wheat Board was aware of the volume of tough grain which was involved I do not know. I will have to check. I know they have taken action to bring dry grain from other areas, so that a mixing process can assist the dryers. Those dryers are not capable of handling this volume of grain easily or quickly. The situation in relation to Vancouver was complicated by the movement to Vancouver earlier of grain which was of a lower protein content than the Wheat Board had reason to expect. They have had to balance that movement with large volumes, particularly from southern Saskatchewan, where wheat of higher protein content is dependably available.

PRINCE RUPERT TERMINAL—MEASURES TO INCREASE DRYING CAPACITY—REQUEST FOR NAME OF LESSEE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture? May I ask the minister, who is in charge of the Canadian Grain Commission which operates the terminal at Prince Rupert, two questions? One, is any action being taken to increase the drying capacities of that terminal at Prince Rupert? Second, and even more important, has the minister

[Mr. Epp.]

yet decided what tender he is going to accept for the leasing of that terminal? Will he assure the House that it will not go to the Cargill Grain Company?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, first, may I correct the report carried on CBC radio yesterday morning that two million bushels of damp grain are in that elevator? The figure is 1.2 million, less than they stated. Therefore, the dryer is running to capacity. They are blending that grain with grain which is dryer. There was not, over all, that waiting which was alleged, and demurrage costs were not as great as reported. When a ship goes to Prince Rupert it knows full well that it will take longer to load from that old elevator than from other elevators; on the other hand, that ship is several hundred miles closer to the port of destination. Also, let me add that I am to meet the Canadian Grain Commission in Winnipeg tomorrow.

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FISHERIES**HADDOCK QUOTA FOR FISHERMEN FROM SOUTH WESTERN NOVA AREA—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO REDUCTION**

Miss Coline Campbell (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. Is the minister aware that the larger boats which have been excluded from the gulf have come down to the Brown's and Germa Banks and increased the effort on the allotted haddock quota for this area? If so, can the minister give assurance to the fishermen of South Western Nova that their boat quotas will not be reduced in the month of June or the rest of the year, in light of this increased effort by the outsider boats on the haddock quota?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the fishing plan for 1977 tries to assure a fair share for all concerned, and tries to ensure that there will be no undue dislocation of traditional fishing patterns. Before considering the exact details of the hon. member's question I would have to look into this matter, and report to her.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP OF UGANDA—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister? Is it the intention of the government to support the call of the distinguished Anglican Primate of Canada, Archbishop Scott, for an international investigation of the murder of Uganda's Anglican archbishop and two government ministers, and can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House if the Canadian government has yet expressed to the United Nations Human Rights Commission or the Commonwealth Association the