

velopment. It is positive and follows, by some years, the enlightened policy that was introduced by this government in 1970.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HARASSMENT OF ORTHODOX DOUKHOBORS—REQUEST FOR COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—RCMP PROTECTION

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. In view of the increasing harassment being experienced by the Orthodox Doukhobor community at the hands of the Freedomite Doukhobors in the form of arson and threats of arson, is the minister prepared to consider recommending the establishment of a commission of inquiry to examine this problem which has gone unresolved for five generations, costing Canadian taxpayers millions of dollars and untold damages, police work and prison services?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I shall gladly consider the hon. member's suggestion and the request he is making. First, however, I shall try to ascertain whether this is not a provincial responsibility and whether I should not instead refer this matter to the attorney general of the province concerned. Just the same, I shall consider most seriously the issue raised by the hon. member.

[*English*]

Mr. Brisco: I thank the minister for his answer. I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General.

In view of the fact that at this time some 16 homes of members of the Orthodox community of Doukhobors are reported to be on a Freedomite Doukhobor hit-list, and that these home owners are weary from guarding their homes and in fear of their lives, would the minister support the proposal of additional RCMP personnel to be assigned to protect these home owners and others, and to provide increased manpower to the RCMP "D" squad in the Kootenays?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the question the hon. member directed to the Minister of Justice and I do not know what relation it bears to the question he has asked of me. However, with reference to his representation, the allocation of members of the RCMP within the province of British Columbia is a matter for the province. It relates to the administration of the RCMP within that province for which the attorney general of the province of British Columbia is responsible.

Oral Questions

AGRICULTURE

UTILIZATION OF GRAIN TERMINALS SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture and relates to the two questions I asked three weeks ago.

Has the minister received any report as yet from the Board of Grain Commissioners about the utilization of grain terminals seven days a week and about bypassing terminals by putting barley through on final export permits from the country elevators?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Just this morning, Mr. Speaker, we had a meeting with the chairman of the Canadian Grain Commission. He informed me that several of the suggestions made by the hon. member are quite good, but with respect to some of them he is getting a legal interpretation of the act since he does not feel he has the authority to direct the elevators to run seven days a week. Consideration has to be given to such thing as union contracts, hiring extra people, and so on. Apparently there are quite a number of aspects involved in following these suggestions.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, still maintaining the constructive mood which exists between the minister and myself, would the hon. gentleman advise the Board of Grain Commissioners that there was a meeting between labour and management on this subject on July 7, 1975, in Vancouver. The railway unions at that time requested the seven days a week operation. If the Board of Grain Commissioners are informed of this, they will perhaps be in a position to ask more pertinent questions of the grain companies.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners is aware of these facts. He has a slight labour difficulty at the present time, as I am sure the hon. member is aware. If I interpreted the chairman correctly, he does not wish to aggravate the situation. Of course, I take the same stand as the hon. member, that when the need is there and urgency exists, the facilities, whether they be on the farm or off the farm, should be run around the clock.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

NELSON, B.C.—TRIAL OF DOUKHOBORS ACCUSED OF ARSON

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplemental to one asked of the Minister of Justice by my hon. friend from Kootenay West.

Considering the telegram received from the participants in a mass meeting of Doukhobor communities at Brilliant, B.C., over the weekend protesting that the court proceedings during last week's arson trial at Nelson, B.C., were a complete mockery of our justice system—as was graphically illustrated by CBC coverage on Saturday night during the national