

*Oral Questions*

and are meeting again later this afternoon with another group. I can say, from the meetings we have had so far, I do not think we will have any crisis. The farmers are using far more fertilizer than they ever have. We have asked the companies to produce more and they are doing that. The farmers used 50 per cent more last year in western Canada because I asked them to do so. They are going to do that and we are going to see they have the supplies of fertilizer they need.

**Mr. Murta:** Mr. Speaker, that was the most ridiculous political answer I have ever heard to a question. In view of the fact that major grain companies that handle and in some cases produce fertilizer are going to experience shortages without a doubt this year, what does the government intend to do about these shortages in the future? Does it intend only to hold discussions and talk and not really meet the problem?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, some companies have already shown us their production figures for this coming year. They have been increased from 500,000 to 650,000 tons in one plant alone in western Canada and it is cutting off export of 100,000 tons. So in that plant alone this represents over 200,000 extra tons for the farmers in western Canada. We are prepared to take action to make sure that the fertilizer stays in Canada for the use of the Canadian farmers to make them as productive as possible. We have taken action in regard to other products to make sure—I refer to protein for one—that they stay in Canada to make our people productive so they do not have to compete in an unfair manner with other countries which might otherwise get our product.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow the hon. member for Lisgar to ask a further supplementary, after which I will recognize the hon. member for New Westminster.

● (1450)

**Mr. Murta:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask one last supplementary. Instead of giving short speeches such as the minister has now given, what specifically is he going to do since he has said that the government will do something if such a situation occurs? What specifically is going to happen?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, we have to get all the facts. I have just outlined some of them. Hon. members may want me to outline them all at this time but I know that you, Sir, would not allow me to do that. I have confidence in the ability of the fertilizer producers to look after the needs of our people. If they do not and they want to continue exports, we can, of course, stop them. There is no doubt about that. As the hon. member knows, we are huge exporters of nitrogen and potash, and we import phosphate. Surely we can make a deal to get the best possible advantage for our manufacturers. This is what the manufacturers have been telling me this morning and will probably do so again this afternoon.

**Mr. Whittaker:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the Minister of Agriculture is fully

[Mr. Whelan.]

informed. I have evidence that there is a shortage of fertilizer in British Columbia—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that is hardly a point of order. There are only five minutes left before the end of the question period and I think we should try to move to the next subject.

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**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****SUGGESTED CHANGES IN BAIL REFORM ACT TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the peculiar conditions which were imposed on bail in the case of Dr. Henry Morgentaler of Montreal, namely, that the bail provisions not only deny him the freedom to discuss his case publicly, which is usual, but also deny him the right to make any public appearances whatsoever or to discuss anything whatsoever, is the minister considering changes in the Bail Reform Act so that the fundamental right of freedom of speech can be protected for persons presumed to be innocent until proven otherwise?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would hesitate to comment on a particular existing case. A great deal of discretion in our judicial process is inevitably left to the judiciary, and I think that that is as it should be. We are, of course, looking at other matters in relation to the Bail Reform Act, and so did the Commissioners on Uniformity. We will be bringing proposals before the House before too long.

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**PUBLIC SERVICE****AMOUNT OF INCREASES OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT TO THOSE AT LOWER LEVELS**

**Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Trinity. Is it the government's view that it will help restrain inflation by offering people in the junior levels of the civil service, nurses in particular, wage increases that are significantly less than the rate of inflation?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, not accepting the premise of the hon. member's question I have difficulty in forming an answer.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Mr. Speaker, there has been a suggestion of a 20 per cent increase in pay for deputy ministers, and this minister says that he does not accept that as a fact. Will he answer this question: Is the government trying to restrain inflation by reducing the pay of junior civil servants?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** The answer is a categorical no, and the hon. gentleman knows it.