

Inquiries of the Ministry

to do work that would ordinarily be done by others at regular rates of pay, will the Department together with the Department of Justice give consideration to paying the inmates regular wages which would be held and given to them on their release? That would really help to rehabilitate them.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to discuss this matter with the Minister of Justice.

AGRICULTURE**QUEBEC—PROPOSED MARCH OF FARMERS ON OTTAWA**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture concerning a decision that has just been made by the members of the U.C.C. of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area, namely that they will march on Ottawa.

Is the Minister of Agriculture aware that such a decision has been taken unanimously by the farmers of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area, and is he getting ready to receive them, to listen to their point of view, in order to find a solution to their problem?

[*English*]

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are willing, of course, to listen to any group of farmers who may come to Ottawa. As hon. Members know, the responsibility for providing relief for crop disasters is that of the Provincial Government. The Federal Government does, however, have a crop insurance scheme under which it will contribute to provincial programs 20 per cent of the total premiums and 50 per cent of the operation costs.

In so far as assisting agriculture is concerned, I should like to point out that during 1964, for example, Federal grants and subsidies paid to agriculture in the Province of Quebec amounted to \$41,433,000, which was approximately 28 per cent of the total payments made across Canada. On a per farm basis Federal assistance during that year in the Province of Quebec averaged \$432 per farm compared with the national average payment per farm of \$304.

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Témiscamingue): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The farmers of the Lake St. John

[*Mr. Orlikow.*]

region apparently are plagued by too much rain, but I want to ask the Minister whether he is contemplating any emergency measures to help those farmers of the Ottawa valley who are affected because there is not enough rain, with the result that drought conditions are the worst in many years.

Mr. Hays: Mr. Speaker, in this regard one does not know if one is afoot or on horseback. I can assure the hon. Member that we are very sympathetic to the farmers of both regions. So far as the Lake St. John area is concerned, I do not think the Federal Government has any responsibility with regard to rain making.

Mr. Martineau: Mr. Speaker, I am more interested at the moment in the farmers of the Ottawa valley. I am sure the Minister has received representations from many associations of farmers in that area. Has he taken note of these representations, and is he taking any special steps?

Mr. Hays: Mr. Speaker, these representations should first be made to the Province. In this regard may I say that on Tuesday afternoon in Toronto I discussed the drought problem with the Ontario Minister of Agriculture. We are all greatly concerned about this matter, but at the moment we have had no representations from the Province.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**QUEBEC CITY—SECURITY REPORTS IN ENGLISH ONLY**

On the orders of the day:

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robert Beaulé (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

Is the minister now in a position to reply to the question I asked him on May 12 concerning the preparation of the R.C.M.P. reports at Quebec harbour?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, all members of the R.C.M.P. at Quebec harbour are bilingual and may use any one of the two official languages. However, they have had verbal instructions to report any complaint they receive in the language it was made. As for administration directives dealing with security, they are all given in both French and English.