

## GRAIN

LIFT PROGRAM REGULATIONS FOR CALCULATION OF  
SUMMERFALLOW—EQUITABLE PAYMENT OF FARMERS

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the interpretation of certain regulations in the Lift program dealing with the calculation of summerfallow using 1968 crop figures, resulting in some farmers being paid and others in identical circumstances not being paid, and as the legal opinion was belatedly announced in December, 1970, is the minister looking into this matter so that payment will be made in an equitable manner to all?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** If the hon. member would give me the details of the problem to which he is referring, I would be glad to look into it.

REASON FOR SHIPS HAVING TO WAIT TO BE LOADED  
AT VANCOUVER

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** I have a supplementary question for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. I have asked him a number of questions relating to the number of ships standing by in Vancouver harbour waiting to be loaded. Has he any comment to make on the fact that there appear to be 19 ships in Vancouver harbour, 12 of which are standing by because of lack of grain to load?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** I had my office get in touch with Vancouver at noon today and I understand that at this very moment 11 ships are waiting, having passed inspection and seven are being loaded. As I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition several days ago, there is quite an accumulation of ships destined to arrive in February as a result of failure to arrive earlier. As I understand it, there may be as many as 17 or 18 more vessels due to arrive in the month of February. If they do all arrive we can expect to see some lengthy queues in the process of moving toward record loadings at the port of Vancouver.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether he is assuring the House that the appropriate grades and quality of grain are there to be loaded on these ships that are waiting?

**Mr. Lang:** What I can assure the House is that the block system is working very well—

**Mr. Stanfield:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Lang:** —and that the programming of grain from Winnipeg by the Wheat Board, in co-operation with the railroads and elevator companies, is taking place with the nominated ships in mind so that an attempt is made to have the right grain there at the right time. It is because of the efficiency of this system that we may be approaching record loadings.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be too persistent, but would the minister be good enough to

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answer my question? Is there grain there at Vancouver to be put on these vessels that are waiting?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I do not have the facts—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lang:** —on the exact quantities of grain in store and the amount required by the number of ships, but what I would tell the Leader of the Opposition is that if you count the grain in the pipeline, that is the grain in the railway system on its way to Vancouver, a very efficient job is being done in attempting to see that the grain is there to meet record loadings in the month of February.

REQUESTED DELAY IN REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCES  
UNTIL SEEDING COMPLETED

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the very tight cash situation of the Prairie grain farmer and in view of the request by the National Farmers Union at its recent meeting with the cabinet, will the minister give consideration to delaying the collection of cash advance payments at least until after seeding?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to have some further discussions with the National Farmers Union to see what they had in mind. Generally speaking, I think they agree with the proposition that cash advances should be repaid within the course of a year. I believe the reference was to some particular problems of small farmers or of farmers with particularly small quotas, and I would be glad to have further discussion with them on this matter.

## SUGGESTED PRICE GUARANTEE TO FARMERS ON EXPORTS

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Having regard to the failure of the Geneva conference to reach a conclusive agreement, is any consideration being given by the government to establishing a realistic price guarantee for grains destined for export based on current production costs, which would serve to relieve the producers of some of the disastrous effects of the cut-throat selling policies of other exporting countries?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I have said a number of times that we should not be so pessimistic as to believe competition of that sort need follow. I might also say that I do not think we will ever be in a position to adopt a guaranteed income approach which covers full costs regardless of the price obtained for these products in the international markets.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, does the minister expect the producers of this country to shoulder all the vagaries of the international marketplace?