

GRAIN

FEED GRAIN—INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER WILL ATTEND MEETING ON PROVISION OF SUPPLIES TO EASTERN CANADA

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I ask a question of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the statement by Mr. Dernier, vice-chairman of the Canadian Livestock Feed Board, that there is only ten days' supply of feed grain on hand in eastern Canadian positions, is the minister going to comply with the request that the Canadian Wheat Board, the grains group in Ottawa and the railways meet with the Federation of Agriculture in Moncton to discuss this situation, and is the minister himself going to attend that meeting?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the decision to have such a meeting was partly that of the grains group as well as the Canadian Livestock Feed Board, and I anticipate that the others who have been invited to attend will be at the meeting. I anticipate that the meeting will proceed at the official level.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We have about come to the end of the question period. Perhaps the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar might be allowed a supplementary, and then I will see the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre and the Leader of the Opposition before calling orders of the day.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact these same people have made the statement that the shortage of box-cars is desperate, and in view of the repeated assurances by the minister in charge of the Wheat Board and the Minister of Transport that they have a commitment from the railways to move adequate amounts of grain, can the minister say when either he or the Minister of Transport will make a definitive statement to the House in regard to how this is going to be done, instead of just passing the buck?

● (1450)

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, I am sure unintentionally, has once again misstated the exact nature of the commitment which was to supply a basic number of cars for the movement of grain. The railways have been responding to the urgent requests from the people who require grain and have been meeting special needs as they arise. It is, of course, a difficult situation as long as the backlog which has occurred in this country is not made up and as long as there is tremendous pressure on the railways to move many other products. But within those difficult circumstances every effort is being made to ensure that the most urgently required supplies arrive.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I rather take exception to the minister saying I am making a misstatement of the facts either intentionally or unintentionally when anyone who reads the record of the questions and answers in this House knows there is a shortage of transport.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

Oral Questions

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REASON FOR REDUCTION OF OBLIGATORY SERVICE PERIOD FOR ROTP PILOTS IN LIGHT OF VACANCIES

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. In view of the recently announced cross-country advertising campaign by the Canadian Armed Forces to fill vacancies, and in particular because of the shortage of aircrew in the Canadian Armed Forces, why was the period of obligatory service required of ROTP pilots reduced so that they now have to serve only five years from date of commissioning?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would need to make inquiry into the detail in order to be able to reply to the hon. member.

Mr. McKenzie: Why was the period of obligatory service not similarly reduced for direct entry officers who joined after graduating from university at their own expense whereas the ROTP officers received their university education at public expense?

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition.

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ENERGY

OIL—POSITION OF SASKATCHEWAN ON MAINTENANCE OF PRICE FREEZE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the indication that the government of Saskatchewan will impose a tax of \$2.20, I believe, on each barrel of oil leaving the province, whether or not it is going to other parts of Canada, has the minister received any assurance from the government of Saskatchewan that the freeze will be maintained beyond December 31 on oil leaving Saskatchewan? Has the minister been in touch with the government of Saskatchewan about that?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we have not received a copy of the legislation but we would intend to have it at an early date and form an opinion upon the proposed legislation, following which undoubtedly we will be in touch with the Saskatchewan government.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I will first recognize the hon. member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Bell) who is rising on a point of order and then the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette).