

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN****WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS FOR FORAGE**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): My question is addressed to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Has the government any other forage program than the one under Lift and how much money does the government estimate will be spent for forage development under the Lift program?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I do not have a complete statistical breakdown concerning the amount of forage applied for under Lift and the payments which will be made under that program, although preliminary indications are that it will be fairly close to the original target figure. The earlier part of the hon. member's question may refer to the future plans which were indicated in the proposals tabled in the House on October 28. I presume he has those clearly in mind.

Mr. Horner: What was the earlier target figure for the forage part of Lift?

Mr. Lang: We spoke of about two million acres.

Mr. Horner: I rise on a question of privilege. The minister has given figures at this time and at other times in the House of Commons with regard to forage expenditure under Lift and the total expenditure under Lift. In a recent article in a magazine issued in January, 1971, in the course of a question and answer series he stated categorically that there would be \$80 million paid under Lift in respect of wheat and \$40 million in respect of forage.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have to bring it to the attention of the hon. member that though he may have a point of debate with the minister as to what the facts are I doubt very much that this can be considered a question of privilege. It is essentially a matter of debate and I do not think it can be raised now as a question of privilege.

Mr. Horner: On a point of order concerning my question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the minister has on different occasions stated what would probably be paid in connection with the forage part of Lift and on one occasion in January of this year, as found in the magazine to which I have referred, he stated that \$40 million would be paid under Lift. This is a direct deception, a deliberate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Timiskaming.

Mr. Horner: Ten o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**TORONTO—WINNIPEG PASSENGER SERVICE REDUCTION—OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC**

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the announcement

[Mr. Perrault.]

that the CNR intends to remove trains Nos. 7 and 8 as of January 31, will the minister provide an opportunity for the users of these services to be heard at a public hearing before the removal of these passenger trains is permitted?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member knows that the decision as to a public hearing or no is not one for the minister to make. However, I did indicate to the House some time ago the communication that I had received from the Canadian Transport Commission to the effect that there would be no train withdrawals without a public hearing, and I assume that that will apply in this case.

Mr. Peters: In view of the fact that the general manager has now circulated to members concerned the new train schedule, will the minister look into the matter and see that the decision of the board is implemented in the form of a hearing?

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AIR CANADA**REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF OTTAWA EMPLOYEES—UNION REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH MINISTER**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and has to do with the orders that have been issued for a reduction in the work force in Ottawa of airline employees to the extent of 33 per cent. Representations have been made by the airline employees. Indeed, a series of questions have been asked by them which appear to be reasonable and ought to be answered. Have they made a request to the minister, in whom they have a great deal of trust, to meet with the minister so that they may secure from him the answers to these ten questions and others? This would do a great deal for the morale of the employees—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman has asked a question and I am sure the minister is prepared to reply to it at this time.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as a result of earlier questions on this or a related subject posed, I believe, by the hon. member for York South, I got in touch with Air Canada subsequent to yesterday afternoon's session. In the first instance I was advised that they are meeting with the union, today, I believe. I also asked the officials of Air Canada to meet with me on Monday of next week so I may at least have a full briefing in preparation for the statement that I undertook to make as early as possible.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I think that indicates that the statement I was about to make has some basis in fact, namely, that the members of the union want a meeting with the minister. They want to talk with him—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask the minister whether he would so meet them.