

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour): I believe that in line with the new division of responsibilities announced in December, 1965 by the Prime Minister, this is a question which more directly concerns my colleague the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. However, I will be glad to take the matter up with him. One thing that the Minister of Labour has done, in line with requests from members of all parties in the house, has been to promote a change in the regulations governing unemployment insurance, in the hope that this may improve the situation with regard to the availability of more farm labour.

[Later:]

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour supplementary to one that was raised earlier. In view of the fact that the unemployment insurance regulations prohibit the employment of relatives in the farm industry, is the minister receiving complaints in regard to this matter and is he contemplating any change in this restriction?

Mr. Nicholson: As you might expect, Mr. Speaker, we have had a few complaints but they are not appreciable in number. The matter has been under study but I do not anticipate any change in policy at this time.

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF DAIRY
POLICY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Can he inform the house that as usual we may expect an announcement of the 1967 dairy policy on or before the 31st of this month and, if so, will it include a 5, 6 or 7 cent increase in the price of manufactured milk to producers?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A similar question was asked on at least one occasion last week.

Mr. Winkler: The situation is becoming very critical, Mr. Speaker, and I think the hon. gentleman, with his interest in agriculture, could probably answer the question.

GRAIN

QUEBEC—POSSIBLE SALE OR LEASE OF
ELEVATOR

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I would ask the Minister of

Transport whether there is any basis for the suggestion in the press regarding his visit to Quebec that the grain elevator in the port of Quebec is to be sold. If so, under what conditions is it to be sold, and are tenders to be called?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): If by "Quebec" the right hon. gentleman means the city of Quebec, let me say I have not visited that city for a very long time. I did happen to be in Montreal over the week end.

As to the question of the grain elevator, I think I explained to the house some time ago that the National Harbours Board was entertaining applications for either the lease or the sale of the elevator under certain conditions, and I believe certain propositions have been received.

If Your Honour would permit me, I should like to repeat the assurance I gave earlier that all agencies of the federal government interested in the transport or sale of wheat will be consulted before any final action is taken.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Did the Minister of Transport suggest that additional elevators will be built by private firms? I ask that question because it seems strange, bearing in mind the tremendous amounts of wheat which have to be stored, that the government should be considering, through the harbours board or otherwise, disposing of facilities which are certainly much required.

Mr. Pickersgill: I do not know anything about any plans of private firms to build additional elevators. I certainly made no statement about them. So far as the elevator at Quebec is concerned, the only circumstance under which the government would consider agreeing to any proposal from the harbours board to dispose of this elevator, either by sale or lease, would be in order to increase the throughput of grain through that elevator. If that would not be the consequence then we would not want to do it.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question follows an earlier question I put on this matter. Has the minister had conversations with the Quebec minister of agriculture, who sent a wire asking that he be consulted before any action was taken on the matter of this elevator?