

Inquiries of the Ministry

sure the hon. member did not intend to use those words and would like to give an explanation which would be satisfactory to the Chair.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw.

Mr. Hees: I will be very glad to comply with your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and withdraw the word "deliberately". I simply say the minister is misleading the house. I ask him when he will take his job seriously, instead of sneering at the problems he was appointed to deal with, like the bumptious smart aleck that he shows himself to be every time he rises to speak in this house.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I wonder whether we could return to the question period. We have only 40 minutes, as hon. members know, and if we spend half this time on points of order or questions of privilege it is somewhat unfair to other hon. members. I hope the minister is not rising on a question of privilege also.

Mr. Basford: I was, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member was. I hope he is not now.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

GRAIN**PRESS REPORT INDICATING ATTEMPT TO EQUALIZE CASH FLOW—REQUEST FOR QUOTA STATEMENT**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he gave an interview to Mr. Hyman Solomon a while ago. Such an interview is reported as having taken place. Apparently this is a case of another Solomon come to judgment. Did the minister advise Mr. Solomon that there would be a fall-away this year in total farm cash income for all sales of wheat, oats and barley of \$450 million. Also, did he use these words which appear in quotation marks in the newspaper article:

What we will be trying to do is equalize as far as is possible the cash flow of farmers who are stuck with the kind of grain the market simply doesn't want at the moment with those who are lucky enough to have what the market wants.

Is this the plan of the government, or was it a midsummer night's dream on the part of the minister when he told Mr. Solomon this?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure whether the question is in proper form; in

[Mr. Speaker.]

fact, I have serious doubt about it. However, in view of the fact that the matter has already been raised by way of a question of privilege, the minister might be allowed to reply to the question.

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is yes, and to the second part the answer is also yes. But I would like to add that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has announced a number of times in this house in response to questions, as well as the chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board, that they were going to equalize the quota.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister has been frank in that answer. I ask him, is the government going to bring in a measure before we adjourn, in order to equalize the situation in which farmers on the prairies find themselves because they have not the wheat that is required for export? Can they get relief now, or must they wait until fall?

Mr. Olson: The action of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Canadian Wheat Board with respect to cash advances and other things has already gone a long way toward achieving that objective.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Did not the minister know when he made the statement to Mr. Solomon that further action was going to be taken, or was it a midsummer night's dream?

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that by very rough division approximately one-third of the delivery points are on a quota of three bushels to the acre, one-third are on four bushels to the acre and one-third are on five bushels, will the minister make a statement to the house prior to our adjourning for the summer recess setting out how the five-bushel quota objective of the Canadian Wheat Board is to be achieved? We would like to know what the plans and programs of the government are.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the only answer I can give is, by the best use of transportation facilities. I have said on a number of occasions that I have been told by the chief commissioner of the Wheat Board that he would do his very best in this regard, and hopefully it could be done. He said that