

Unemployment

government of Canada in connection with the movement of oil across the border from Canada to the United States?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as I stated at the last sitting, a reply has been received. This reply can only be made public with the permission of the sender. We have asked for that permission but, to the best of my knowledge, a reply to that request has not been received.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REFERENCE TO SESSIONAL PAPER NO. 80-C

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour with respect to sessional paper No. 80-C which he tabled on Thursday, March 24. He will recall that he and I agreed that representative communications would be satisfactory with regard to the subject matter of the return, namely unemployment, rather than all the communications. In view of the fact that in these documents there is no communication from Winnipeg, will he not agree that it is hardly representative and will he bring down a supplementary return?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to see that any representative documents from Winnipeg are added to those the hon. member has in his possession.

Mr. Knowles: Thank you.

GRAIN

WHEAT—REFERENCE TO CANADIAN PERCENTAGE OF WORLD SALES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Would the minister care to comment on the fact that the percentage of Canadian wheat sales to world wheat sales is down? Would the minister care to say whether Canada's percentage of such sales is likely soon to be recovered?

Right Hon. C. D. Howe (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has sent me a document entitled *The Wheat Review*, published by the department of which I am minister, which shows that for the full year last year Canada supplied 42 per cent of the world's wheat and that for the first six months of this year Canada supplied 36.1 per cent of the world's wheat. May I say that the figures are not comparable. The shipment of wheat from Canada is largely

seasonal. Our ports are closed, except for the Atlantic ports and Vancouver, from about December 10 until some time in April. We have a heavy movement booked out of the St. Lawrence for the opening of navigation and I have no reason to believe that, when the year ends, we shall not hold our percentage of total world sales. I may say that in some markets our percentage of sales is well ahead of last year.

Mr. Argue: I wonder whether the minister would take a second look at those statistics. If he will do so, he will see that the periods quoted in each year are the same periods, and not a part of the year against the whole year.

SUPPLY

The house resumed, from Wednesday, March 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Harris for committee of supply, and the amendment thereto of Mrs. Fairclough, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Regier.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Carl O. Nickle (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, in the earlier part of my speech in this debate last Wednesday I referred to the rapid growth in recent years of western Canada's oil and gas industry, and to its importance in creating jobs for Canadians. Today this industry is directly and indirectly supporting some half a million Canadians, of whom about 300,000 are in the west. Continued growth of the industry—which is inevitable provided there is the incentive of expanded markets on an economic basis for its oil and gas—could rapidly expand the number of Canadian jobs and the number of Canadian families supported by this industry. Many thousands of additional jobs could, in fact, be created in Canada over the next few months by the natural gas phase of the oil industry if this government would remove the shackles of political expediency with which it has tightly bound up this resource.

Only one man in Canada, namely the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), has been in the position of power to wrap the shackles around gas. He is today perhaps the only man in Canada with sufficient power and influence to tear off the shackles. Under the circumstances, I must attach to him the credit, if credit it be, for the gas mess the nation is in today and the credit, if credit it be, for the disappearance of the thousands of jobs that so many Canadians had counted on to start in 1955. These gas shackles I will therefore label "Howe's folly", in doubtful tribute to a man whose