

## GRAIN

## PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL HOPPER CARS BY GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Norval Horner (Battleford-Kindersley):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of speculation that the government favours the purchase of 4,000 more hopper cars, can the minister say whether any orders have been placed and, if so, when will they be delivered and ready for use?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we have more than favoured the purchase. We intend to purchase, and we have decided to purchase 4,000 hopper cars.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lang:** The question is now being pursued about what rate of delivery we ought to anticipate in order that the appropriate tender calls can be issued and contracts can be placed at as early a date as possible.

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## AGRICULTURE

## REQUEST THAT BILL AMENDING EXPORT AND IMPORT PERMITS ACT BE PROCEEDED WITH TO ASSIST EGG AND TURKEY PRODUCERS

**Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the fact that the Canadian egg and turkey industries need some form of immediate federal assistance, can the minister assure the House that he will seriously encourage his seatmate and colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to bring forward for second reading Bill C-4 amending the Export and Import Permits Act?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I can say that with the co-operation of the House the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce hopes to have that bill before the House later this day.

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## GRAIN

## FEED GRAINS—REQUEST THAT PROVINCIAL PLEBISCITE FAVOURING MARKETING BY WHEAT BOARD BE CONSIDERED IN FORMULATING POLICY

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the fact the Prime Minister, in answering a question yesterday, indicated that a plebiscite in regard to feed grain marketing would be considered of great importance to the government, may I ask the minister whether in formulating feed grain policy he will take into account the fact that 93 per cent of the farmers in Manitoba who answered a plebiscite sent out by the provincial government voted in favour of

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retaining the marketing of feed grains within the Canadian Wheat Board?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that plebiscite was so misleading that anyone in favour of any type of feed grain proposal might have voted affirmatively, indeed, including myself without contradiction with the August 3 proposals, I do not think great attention should be paid to that kind of political venture. I think the kind of plebiscite the Prime Minister had in mind was the one held in connection with rapeseed when producers were given a fair opportunity to present their views in a clear and impartial manner.

**Mr. Gleave:** Do I take it that the minister intends to ignore the expressed wishes of those farmers and base his policy largely on the wishes of the private grain trade?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the government, in considering finally the question of the feed grain policy for Canada, will be taking into consideration the interests of all Canadian producers and consumers of grain, and will produce a policy which is equitable and allows for the development of agriculture in this country according to the natural advantages and opportunities that exist.

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● (1150)

## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## ARMoured CORPS—INTENTION OF MINISTER RESPECTING RE-EQUIPMENT AND ROLE FOLLOWING RETIREMENT OF CENTURION TANK

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. The minister has announced that the main battle tank of the armed forces will be phased out and apparently not replaced. Can the minister tell us whether he plans to re-equip the armoured corps with some other type of armoured fighting vehicle such as armoured cars, does he intend to change the role of the armoured corps, or does he intend to disband the corps?

**Mr. Nielsen:** Equip them with skidoos.

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have stated several times that the decision will be announced before 1976, which is the date to which the service of the Centurion tank has been extended.

**Mr. McKinnon:** As this decision affects the lives of thousands of servicemen and their dependants, I hope the minister can come up with some better answer than that within the next two years so they will have an opportunity to plan their future.