

Inquiries of the Ministry

supply and that no other commodities or other kinds of grain need to be grown?

Mr. Lang: The best opinion available, as indicated in such things as the Outlook Conference, was that the acreage available for grains and crops other than wheat last year was about the right amount of acreage for those crops again this year. That does not mean that each crop should have the same acreage. Indeed it is indicated that there should be some increases in some crops and small decreases in others. It means that there is in fact only a small margin of room for additional production in the total non-wheat area, and this leads to the problem of what to do with land if it is moving out of wheat production. The obvious thing that must be avoided is that it go in great quantity into the non-wheat crops and produce serious over-supply in those areas.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio. In his reply to the Leader of the Opposition he said that some farmers had enough wheat to supply the market for the next two years. Is he implying by that remark that the farmer can live and meet his expenses for—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is argumentative.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a further supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the most recent statements of the minister, is he now recommending to the government that a deficiency payment should be made to farmers in western Canada?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, government policy will be announced as soon as it is decided.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio. I wonder, when the minister announces to the House government policy that will be followed to assist and advise the western farmers in their dilemma, whether he will assure the House that he will not simply advise them to diversify into livestock feeding operations and thereby create another problem for the farmers in the east?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, that was very much what was in my mind when I talked to farmers about acreage diversion problems, that to simply take their acreage out of wheat

[Mr. Benjamin.]

and put it into other crops would be relatively dangerous because the other crops would then be in over-supply.

[Later:]

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I believe the minister misunderstood my question to a certain extent, in spite of my explanation, and farmers will not find it satisfactory to have a minister like that in charge of their business—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a supplementary question, he should try to ask it at this time.

Mr. McKinley: I will, Mr. Speaker, thank you. What I particularly asked was that the minister not simply inform western farmers that they should go into the feeding of livestock and thereby put the eastern farmer out of business.

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): As a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, will the minister undertake to make a statement on motions in the near future clarifying the government's position on the matters upon which he has been questioned today? Will he also undertake to follow up on reports of further opportunities for grain sales and wheat sales to eastern Europe, including the country of Roumania in particular?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I can assure hon. members that the Wheat Board and the government follow up any report and any possibility for grain sales. I would expect that before too long I would be in a position to make a statement on government policy in this area.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Wheat Board. Would the minister kindly inform the House when his leave of absence from the University of Saskatchewan expires?

Mr. Baldwin: Are there any judicial openings in Saskatchewan?

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
REVISION OF QUOTA SYSTEM

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): My supplementary question to the minister is: Has the minister now received the recommendations of the special committee which is revising the