

Inquiries of the Ministry

with whatever appropriate legislative steps may be required.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): A supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In light of the government's position on the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act because of the proposed stabilization bill presently before the House, has the minister consulted with his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and recommended to him withholding family allowance cheques until such time as FISC is approved by Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I remind hon. members that we are running short of time. There are about seven minutes remaining before the end of the question period. I am anxious to recognize some hon. members who have been seeking recognition by the Chair since the beginning of the question period. For the moment, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre on a supplementary.

STABILIZATION BILL—POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT
AMENDMENTS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): My supplementary is for the minister in charge of the wheat board. In light of representations that have been made to the minister, not only by former provincial governments on the prairies but present governments since the House recessed at the end of June, and in light of further representations by farm organizations, is it the intention of the minister during the current discussion of Bill C-244 to bring in any further changes, additions or deletions to the bill?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): A variety of suggestions for improvements in the stabilization plan made by farm organizations were incorporated in the final version of the bill. Some amendments were made in committee and, of course, the bill will be further considered. Generally, the farm organizations still have the very strong feeling that the financial position of farmers is extremely difficult and requires additional help. As far as I can see, they are not making any substantial suggestions for improving the bill except ones that would simply involve a lot more money.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INCREASE IN PASSENGER FARES—CONSULTATION WITH
GOVERNMENT

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): My question is for the Minister of Transport. The CNR today announced an increase in passenger fares amounting to between 10 and 15 per cent effective October 1. Did they consult the government about this and does the government feel this large increase is inflationary?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, they have not consulted the government with regard to this increase. The normal procedure is that

advice is conveyed to the Minister of Transport. I, personally, have not seen that advice today. I cannot say at the moment whether it has been sent or not.

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TRANSPORT

FREIGHT RATES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON
NEGOTIATIONS WITH WESTERN PROVINCES

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Several times before the House recessed for the summer I asked about the continuing negotiations between the minister and his officials and the premiers and their officials in western Canada regarding the high freight rates now existing in western Canada. Can the minister report to the House what progress, if any, has been made in this regard?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have a little problem keeping up with the premiers, but to the extent I have been able to do so we have moved the discussions eastward, having dealt with Alberta and Saskatchewan. Within the past three months I have received submissions from the province of Manitoba. If my officials are not there now, they will be within a few weeks. The negotiating process is continuing with all three governments. Given the political developments in that area in recent months, a certain measure of review is necessary.

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AIR TRANSPORT

BOMB SCARES—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO MAKE
OFFENCE A CRIME RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONALLY

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I have a question for the Minister of Transport of which I have given him notice. In light of the bomb scare telephone call yesterday by a crank from a foreign country involving Halifax international airport, will the minister ensure that steps are taken to make this kind of mischief a crime that is recognized across international boundaries? I ask this because I am reliably informed that the identity of the one making the calls is known, but action against him is difficult.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I thank the hon. member for notice of this question. I am advised that if the background is correct, the crank in question is in Hawaii. Why he would want to call Halifax from Hawaii, I do not know. I can understand wanting to call Hawaii from Halifax at times. All I can say is that I will look into the matter.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, I almost think there is a question of privilege involving the grand atmosphere of Halifax arising out of the minister's response.