

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question and I am hoping for a little briefer answer. Is it correct for the House to infer from the minister's statement just now that if the government of Ontario does nothing to prohibit the takeover of Ryerson Press, the federal government does not intend to take action?

Mr. Speaker: I would point out that the hon. member's question as asked is hypothetical.

Mr. Broadbent: I will rephrase it, Mr. Speaker, in the following fashion. If the government of Ontario does not take specific action to stop the takeover of Ryerson Press, does the federal government at this time intend to take action?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may have rephrased the question but it is still hypothetical.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister. In view of the fact that the Premier of Ontario has indicated his intention of meeting McGraw-Hill and Ryerson Press representatives in the hope that the Ryerson Press operation can be kept in Canada, has the federal government had any contact with the Premier of Ontario to indicate that it would be prepared to give financial assistance, if that were necessary, in order to keep Ryerson Press in Canada?

Mr. Pepin: I can only say I have no money in my budget for that purpose.

Mr. Baldwin: That has never stopped you before.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

REPORTED EMPLOYMENT OFFER TO FORMER LAPALME TRUCK DRIVERS

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of reports emanating from the minister's department to the effect that the government is prepared to provide employment for the 400 Lapalme truck drivers provided the CNTU gives up its demand that the union local be retained within the Public Service, can the minister say where these 400 jobs are available and how long will they be held in abeyance for the Lapalme drivers before they are offered to other unemployed people?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I read the same report in the newspapers but it was not given by the Department of Labour. It was through another department of government. I think the hon. member will have to address his question to the appropriate minister.

Mr. Simpson: May I ask the minister if he would care to read the latest news release from the Department of Labour which carries this report?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Mackenzie.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Mackasey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, since this matter has been raised on half a dozen occasions I wish to point out that the particular bulletin to which the hon. gentleman refers is nothing more than a summary of reports from the various newspapers issued daily across Canada. The inference is that I, as Minister of Labour, should assert some form of censorship over the papers, which is something I refuse to do.

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GRAIN

PRESENCE OF RUSTY BEETLE IN WHEAT SHIPMENTS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. The other day I asked him when he would be able to provide some information in regard to cargoes of grain found to be infested with rusty beetles. Since this may have an effect on potential world sales I wonder whether the minister is prepared to indicate to the House the amount of grain involved and whether negligence had occurred in inspections at the terminals?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. member a few days ago that I would try to get all the information I could on the subject but he will realize it may take a little time. However, I can assure him that we have sufficient quantities of good grain of many grades in Canada, free from rusty beetles, to supply all markets.

Mr. Korchinski: Could I ask the minister whether his department is conducting investigations out in the country on the possibility of beetles in grain, other than the investigations being conducted at the terminals?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, we are making as many checks as we can with the staff that we have available. I repeat what I suggested to the right hon. member for Prince Albert the other day, that the farmers themselves have some responsibility for the management of their farms and for checking the bins for beetles.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The farmer always has to pay under this government.

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): Will the minister take steps to see that the parties responsible for this infestation of export wheat are required to pay for the cost incurred instead of assessing all the cost to the farmers?

Mr. Olson: The costs of doing this will have to be considered. If this grain is in one of the commercial positions we will have to take that into consideration, but a full assessment has not been made yet.

Mr. McCleave: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice is trying to catch your eye. I merely rise to give you an opportunity to recognize him but if necessary I can ask a question.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture if he will make a