

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

days ago to the Minister of Agriculture recorded at page 8447 of *Hansard* and entitled "Saskatchewan—Preservation of Indian Shrine". As I think the minister knows, the matter involves the possible flooding of an Indian shrine by the rising waters behind the South Saskatchewan river dam. What steps is the Indian affairs branch or the historic sites and monuments board taking or being asked to take to ensure that this ancient Indian shrine will in fact not be destroyed by the rising waters behind the South Saskatchewan dam?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, we have had some rather frightening estimates about the weight of this stone varying from 200 tons to 450 tons, with cost varying up to \$150,000 and so on. I think the Minister of Agriculture has been speaking to some of his people in P.F.R.A., and there has been a suggestion that at least a modest part of the stone be removed. I have no knowledge whether a subdivision of the stone would be satisfactory to the people who are interested in its transfer.

**Mr. Barnett:** Has the government been in touch—

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I made that suggestion months ago and I hope it will be followed.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

**Mr. Barnett:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. The question I was going to ask was whether the government has been in touch with any of the authorities who have become expert in the techniques of moving such stones to higher ground.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition has a supplementary question.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, is it not possible to take a portion of that stone and set it aside? It is regarded as something sacred to the Indians, and with a government that has spent so much on so many things surely this shrine should be preserved in part. Does the minister not agree?

**Mr. Laing:** Mr. Speaker, I must say that an Indian friend of mine not so long ago said there had been so much talk about the stone in the house that he was surprised it had not moved itself.

[Mr. Barnett.]

**GRAIN****REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF GOVERNMENT ELEVATORS AS DELIVERY POINTS**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. D. R. Gundlock (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Finance. Would the minister consider asking the board of grain commissioners and the wheat board whether it might be possible to lease the various government terminal elevators located in Calgary, Lethbridge, Moose Jaw and other points and designate them as delivery points so that the farmers would be able to haul grain directly to them and make use of the storage space there?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in so far as this question relates to my responsibilities as the minister reporting for the wheat board I would take this question as notice and pass along the suggestion. Of course the Minister of Agriculture is responsible for the board of grain commissioners.

**NATIONAL PARKS****CAPE BRETON HIGHLANDS—WINTER WORKS PROGRAM**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, is the minister in charge of Canada's national parks in a position today to reply to the question I posed several days ago regarding a winter works program for the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, which at the time was kindly taken as notice by the Minister of Veterans Affairs?

**Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** No, Mr. Speaker, not at this time.

**NORTHERN AFFAIRS****REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. Barry Mather (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, may I address a question to the minister of Indian affairs in relation to the recent report and recommendations of the commission on government in the north. Will the people in the north have an opportunity to express their reaction to the recommendations of the commission prior to their implementation by the government?