

very serious matter or is the Prime Minister simply allowing each department to investigate?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the traditional way in dealing with this has been followed by the government, that is asking each minister to ensure that there be a complete departmental investigation before calling in the police.

Mr. Hees: As six weeks appears to be a more than adequate time to reach a solution of this matter, will the government now consider putting the RCMP in charge of this investigation?

Mr. Trudeau: I will consider that, Mr. Speaker. I thank the hon. member for wanting me to put the police on those who publish leaks.

LEAKING OF CABINET DOCUMENTS—POSSIBILITY OF MAKING GEORGE BAIN A MEMBER OF PRIVY COUNCIL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is considering making Mr. George Bain a member of the Privy Council so he will be sworn to secrecy before he discloses all the rest of the documents he seems to have, or does the government prefer it the way it is?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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• (3:00 p.m.)

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT POLICY—PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS AND NATIVES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Was the July 29 policy framework based on any formal and specific consultation with the territorial governments and the native people of the north, and if not, are talks now going to be held to formulate with them a framework for northern development?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the minister principally responsible, as well as various other ministers, are in consultation with the responsible authorities in the north when they have any aspects of policy or programs to implement. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is, of course, in constant communication with the authorities in the territorial governments.

CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT POLICY—POSSIBLE CHANGES

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a supplementary to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister inform the House whether or not the cabinet decision made last June on the policy for northern development is still government policy or whether the government has revoked it in the meantime.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am not quite sure what policy the member is referring to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Harding: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I am referring to the disclosure in the newspapers, specifically the *Globe and Mail*, of a northern policy.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I would have to read that paper to be able to answer the member completely, but my understanding and the explanation I received is that it was not a cabinet decision but a memorandum which was reproduced in part in that paper.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members have supplementaries to this question and we will return to this in a moment. In the meantime, however, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Bellechasse.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FEED GRAIN—MEASURES TO ESTABLISH PARITY OF PRICES BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN CANADA

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

Hundreds of Quebec farmers and producers came to Ottawa last week and made representations to the minister regarding the price spread for feed grain between eastern and western Canada. Could the minister tell us if after such representations he will very soon make a statement in the House in that respect?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think it is generally agreed that the existence of low or distress prices for feed grains in the Prairie provinces is an undesirable thing for many reasons, including the interests of the Prairie grain producers as well as of meat producers all across this country. It is our hope to find solutions to this problem, not by spreading the distress prices further but by trying to eliminate them wherever they exist.

[Translation]

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary.

Does the hon. minister mean that he is in favour of having a difference between feed prices for consumption in the west and feed prices for consumption in the east?

[English]

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, what I was indicating was that the problem of too low a price for feed grains in the west was a matter of real concern. There has been some recent improvement with the record sales of barley and wheat which have bolstered the prices in the Prairies. This has eased, to some extent, the immediate problem. We feel we should look at the problem, however, more broadly. Some of the solutions lie in the hands of the provinces which have jurisdiction over producer to producer sales in the