

WHEAT—FREEZE ON DOMESTIC PRICE—NEGOTIATIONS
WITH ONTARIO WHEAT PRODUCERS MARKETING BOARD

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Is he negotiating, or has he negotiated, a freeze on the price of wheat for domestic use with the Ontario Wheat Producers Marketing Board?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, is having discussions along these lines.

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FINANCE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENT TO BANK ACT
TO ENABLE PROVINCES TO HOLD EQUITIES IN
PROVINCIAL BANKS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance arising out of a policy adopted by the federal government at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference, in Calgary. The federal government agreed to amend the Bank Act to enable provincial governments to hold certain equities in provincial or regional banks. I ask the Minister of Finance how soon the House may expect the presentation of such an amendment to the Bank Act.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, when Premier Barrett put that question to me at the conference, I said I hoped to introduce legislation to that effect in 1974.

Mr. Lewis: Could the Minister of Finance indicate why it cannot be done earlier, say some time in 1973? Why the delay until 1974?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. gentleman is acting as a principal or as an agent, but in any event I must have regard to the total parliamentary time available to the House.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

FEED GRAINS—REQUEST FOR BETTER PRICE FOR
EASTERN FARMERS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Could he say whether he has any new policy to introduce in response to the growing number of requests from Eastern farmers for better prices for feed grain?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the feed grains program has been announced. We said that the program will be fully in operation by September 15 and we are still shooting for that date.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

In view of the importance that eastern farmers attach to their requests and since they also have resolved to hold a demonstration in Ottawa if the government does not act before September 15, would the minister say what measures he intends to take in order to prevent this demonstration?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we have informed them of what we are going to do. If they want to parade here and make a presentation, I have no objection.

[Translation]

FEED GRAINS—REQUEST FOR BETTER PRICE FOR
EASTERN FARMERS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the talks that have been held between the Quebec Union des producteurs agricoles and the Department, has the framework which will have to be set to ensure equity between eastern and western Canada been actually accepted by the Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec?

● (1510)

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge they had no objection to it and seemed in full agreement.

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FINANCE

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDER ACCELERATED
WRITE-OFFS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who has expressed the view that the best way to deal with food prices is to encourage production. In view of the fast write-offs and such measures granted to manufacturers to encourage production, does the minister propose to offer a complementary system of fast write-offs and fiscal inducements to farmers to encourage them to increase their production, particularly in view of the tendency of the minister in charge of the Wheat Board to freeze their prices?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, dealing with the preamble to the question first, the result of the corporate tax reduction is certainly having a paramount effect on the intentions of manufacturers and processors. They have raised their expectations by as much as 19 per cent for capital investment in the forthcoming year as a result of these reductions. As for the part of the question that relates to the farming community, that incentive applies to processors of both food and fisheries products.