

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

the responsibility of the elevator company to decide at which delivery points these cars will be placed within that block.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****LACK OF FOOD FOR MÉTIS—CRITERIA USED BY INSPECTION TEAM**

**Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Would the minister inform the House as to what criteria were used by members of the delegation his department sent to northern Saskatchewan to assess the need of Métis people for food? I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the delegation reported no cases of dire want despite the fact that one of the families visited, a family of five, had total provisions of two and a half loaves of bread, a bit of lard, some potatoes and seven eggs when visited later by a member of the National Farmers Union?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, what the people who went from the federal government found was precisely what the Métis leaders in the constituency found, that there was no starvation. There is no doubt they did not talk about abundance. There is no question that there are many people in need there, but there was no starvation. I think that was made clear by the leaders. If there was the type of deprivation and starvation that has been talked about, I think it would constitute grounds for emergency welfare that could override provincial jurisdiction which is paramount in this particular area.

**Mr. Cadieu (Meadow Lake):** In view of the evident problems in assessing the degree of direness of the want of these people, would the minister consider making public a detailed report of the circumstances found by the delegation during their visit?

**Mr. Munro:** Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to bring the findings of the members of the delegation together and make them public.

**ACTION TO IMPLEMENT DONATION OF WHEAT BY FARMERS TO FEED MÉTIS**

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, may I direct a supplementary to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board? In light of the

[Mr. Lang.]

need of the Métis people that was described by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, is the minister now prepared to undertake to have the Wheat Board regulations amended sufficiently to enable groups of farmers who desire to do so to take some of their wheat and have it milled into flour for distribution to these families on a voluntary basis?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** As I indicated the other day, Mr. Speaker, there are various ways in which farmers can, quite apart from the Wheat Board agents, have wheat milled into flour in a particular province. The problem with the Wheat Board agencies being used relates to the total problem of pricing of wheat in the area and the problem of supervision when wheat of different prices is going into the milling process. For some time the hon. member has urged that a two-price system be used in connection with wheat. A two-price system is in effect now and it would be practically impossible—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think this is debate.

**USING OF FISHERIES PRODUCTS TO FEED MÉTIS**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I would like to direct a supplementary question on this matter to the Minister of Fisheries who is not impeded by any organization such as the Wheat Board. Will the minister undertake to make an investigation with regard to surplus or even non-surplus fisheries products to see whether through the aegis of his department these products, which are high in protein, might be made available to the people in that area of Saskatchewan?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** We will certainly look into this, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**POST OFFICE****MONTREAL—USE OF ARMED FORCES TO TRANSPORT MAIL**

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General and Minister of Communications.

Does he still believe that in the end he will have to request the Canadian armed forces to carry out the postal service in Montreal?