

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

and Commerce worked out any arrangement with the Saskatchewan government whereby they can facilitate its program of exchanging wheat for power generating equipment purchased outside Canada?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** May I ask if any request has come from the Saskatchewan government to have such an arrangement facilitated by the government of Canada?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, discussions have taken place between the department and various members of the government and the government of Saskatchewan in connection with the issue of barter wheat. It was indicated to the government of Saskatchewan that no one can, of course, stop the Saskatchewan Power Corporation or any other similar body or company in Canada from buying Canadian wheat and doing whatever they like with it. But we also indicated to the government of Saskatchewan that the question of the barter of wheat was a very delicate one and that barter is not in the interests of the farmer in view of the stability now being developed in regard to the price of wheat in the world.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Stability indeed!

MOVEMENT FROM NORTHERN ALBERTA—  
ACCEPTANCE OF INITIAL QUOTA—AMEND-  
MENTS TO WHEAT BOARD ACT

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since it is well known that in northern Alberta the harvest has been only 20 per cent of what was expected and that the elevators are still filled to capacity, will the minister indicate why grain has not been moving out of northern Alberta? What is he prepared to do about this matter at this time?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio):** Well, Mr. Speaker, the movement of certain grains, wheat in particular, has been somewhat slower for a part of this year, but it is now picking up with the Chinese deliveries now coming on line. Grains such as barley, rapeseed and flax have been moving more rapidly than in the previous year.

**Mr. George Muir (Lisgar):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House and country when the Wheat Board will be able to accept the initial quota for this crop season from the farmers?

**Mr. Lang:** Well, Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board is making every effort to have shipment of sufficient grain from every point in order to allow a unit quota to be delivered by all farmers. This is a high priority item and boxcars are being allocated to this end but of course in a manner that is consistent with the demands of the market for particular types of grain.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps one last supplementary question might be allowed at this time. If there is time we could return to this subject in a few moments.

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, the minister is reported to have stated outside the House that the government intended to bring in certain amendments to the Wheat Board Act which I understand would have the effect of restricting the general ambit of the powers now being exercised by the Wheat Board. Will the minister not say what the nature of the contemplated changes is and when the amendments will be brought before the House?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I presume that since the right hon. gentleman reads my clippings he will have read the second clipping which indicated exactly what in fact we had in mind. It said that many questions relating to the sale and marketing of wheat would be considered. The answer to which the right hon. gentleman is now referring was an answer to the effect that the Canadian Wheat Board does a very good job indeed, in my opinion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Baldwin:** And what did the third clipping say?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before we go further I think I should caution both the right hon. gentleman and the hon. member that we cannot allow a debate on what was said and what was not said. Perhaps the question might be asked directly.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I want to get this clear, because there was an original version and now there is a revised version.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** And now there is a revised, revised version.