

## GRAIN

COMPENSATION TO FARMERS FOR EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS TO  
RUSSIA

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. On April 1 the minister reported to the Standing Committee on Agriculture that the compensation payments due to farmers in Canada arising from the embargo on grain to the Soviet Union would be paid within one week. Now that the week has passed, is the minister able to give the House a further update about that?

**An hon. Member:** Which year?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I do not have the minutes of the committee. I do not believe I was as specific as the hon. member stated. I did say the other day that I hoped in a few days.

**Mr. Epp:** A few days, a few days, and a few days.

**Mr. Whelan:** That all depends on what you define as a few days.

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

**Mr. Whelan:** I still hope that in a few days we will be able to make the announcement.

**Mr. McKnight:** Madam Speaker, the reply from the minister does not contradict anything that he has said so far.

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

**Mr. McKnight:** It is a matter of whether it is one day, two days or a few days.

In light of that, why did the assistant to the Minister of Transport, Senator Argue, last Thursday in Saskatchewan say that he could not say in a definitive way whether payments would be made to the farmers of Canada?

**Mr. Epp:** Get your agricultural act together.

**Mr. McKnight:** Would the Minister of Agriculture intercede so that the farmers of Canada would have some idea as to when they will be getting it? Anything within 30 days—

**Mr. Epp:** Argue with Argue.

**Miss MacDonald:** Argue with your colleague.

**Mr. McKnight:** —anything within 30 days would be appropriate.

**Mr. Whelan:** Madam Speaker, remembering very well just what the hon. member said, anything will be done within 30 days.

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

## Oral Questions

INQUIRY RESPECTING RAPESEED FREIGHT ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It has to do with the government's refusal to renew the interim freight assistance program for processed rapeseed products. I know the Minister of Agriculture is keenly interested in this program. Therefore, could he enlighten this House as to what decision the government is going to make with respect to the renewal of the interim freight assistance program since it expired at the end of March?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Madam Speaker, I hope that an announcement on this will be made in a few days.

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

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## STATUS OF WOMEN

## REVIEW OF ADVISORY COUNCIL'S OPERATIONS

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for the status of women.

**An hon. Member:** Good luck.

**Miss Jewett:** Last week, on Thursday, I believe, the membership of the review panel decided to conduct a review of the council's operations. The panel consists entirely, with one exception, of people who were themselves involved in those shenanigans. I wonder if this kind of internal review, being judge in one's own cause, constitutes, in the eyes of the minister, the independent external review he promised about a month ago to Canadian women?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, as I have told the hon. member and other members of this House many times before, I think it is incumbent upon members to respect the autonomy and independence of the council and to allow it to make decisions concerning its own affairs.

**Miss Jewett:** Madam Speaker, the minister himself recognized the autonomy and independence had been undermined—

**Mr. Crosbie:** He undermined it.

**Miss Jewett:** —by himself and others, and that is why a month ago he promised Canadian women that there would be "an independent external review of the advisory council". When is the minister going to have that independent external review?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Madam Speaker, the hon. member is wrong in her assertion. In a meeting with a number of representatives of women's groups, I undertook to discuss the question of a