

*Oral Questions*JERICHO DEFENCE LAND, VANCOUVER—GOVERNMENT
TERMS FOR TRANSFER TO CITY

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence arising out of a question asked last week in connection with the Jericho defence land in Vancouver. Can the minister assure the House that the government's position does not include any insistence that, one, the city of Vancouver must pay for the Jericho land or, two, arrange to transfer to the government city land in exchange for the Jericho land?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the government has already, in an earlier agreement, given a very large amount of the land to the city—

Mr. Fraser: That is not the question.

Mr. Richardson:—but the government is not prepared to give the remaining 38 acres to the city at no cost.

Mr. Fraser: If the government is not prepared to return this land which is needed for parks at no cost, can the minister advise why \$33 million of federal money is being spent to acquire parkland for the city of Toronto? Why the double standard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary is argument.

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AGRICULTURE

BANKRUPTCY OF DIVERSIFIED CROPS LIMITED—
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE THAT OILSEED FARMERS WILL
BE PROTECTED UNDER CANADA GRAIN ACT

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that Diversified Crops Limited, which has purchased large amounts of oilseeds in western Canada, has gone bankrupt and many farmers cannot receive payment, will the minister give assurance that the individual farmers involved will be fully protected under the bonding provision of the Canada Grain Act? Under the present volatile market conditions, will the minister also ensure that the Grain Commission checks a little closer into small unstable operations?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the primary producers will be protected. The hon. member can rest assured that I will be in contact with the Board of Grain Commissioners. Also, the hon. member could inform the hon. member for St. John's West that people who handle food products do go broke.

Mr. McGrath: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you would inform the minister that it is St. John's East, not St. John's West.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre and the right hon. member for Prince Albert and then call orders of the day.

[Mr. Richardson.]

AIR CANADA

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES STRIKE AT
WINNIPEG—REQUEST THAT MINISTER TAKE ACTION TO
SETTLE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that large Air Canada advertisements appear in today's daily newspapers saying that things are back to normal in Air Canada following recent labour problems, will the minister remind Air Canada of the strike of the finance department employees at Winnipeg and urge Air Canada to make the kind of offer which might bring this dispute to an early settlement?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I think Air Canada will be informed by the question of the hon. member.

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FLOODS

SASKATCHEWAN—INQUIRY AS TO REQUEST BY
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT FOR DECLARATION OF
DISASTER AREA

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he has received petitions or applications from rural municipalities, or copies of such representations made to the provincial government, in connection with the flooding of large areas of Tisdale, Melfort, Choceland, Nipawin and also in the Hudson Bay area represented by the hon. member for Mackenzie? Has there been any suggestion on the part of the government of Saskatchewan that the government of Canada should join in having this area declared a disaster area because tens of thousands of acres are flooded and there is no possibility of there being anything but a modicum of production?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the tremendous damage that the flooding has caused in that area. I am aware also of the fact that the municipalities have passed this motion but to my knowledge it is not on my desk. I am awaiting an assessment by the provincial Minister of Agriculture in Saskatchewan. Maybe later this day we will hear from him, but there has been some discussions between our two offices.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Has there been any suggestion by the provincial government yet, upon whom the primary responsibility rests, to the federal government that this should be declared a disaster area?

Mr. Whelan: Not at this time, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.