Inquiries of the Ministry

ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF ALBERTA FARMERS MAKING DELIVERIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, will the minister consult with the Wheat Board and also with his colleague, the Solicitor General, and inquire into allegations that the RCMP is harassing farmers on the Alberta side of the Peace River who have licences to deliver and are attempting to deliver grain on the British Columbia side of the river?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look into the hon. member's suggestion.

WHEAT—CONGESTION AT MEADOW LAKE SHIPPING POINTS

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Wheat Board. Has anything been done to alleviate the difficulties experienced at some shipping points in the constituency of Meadow Lake? I have received a letter today which says that the elevator has been filled to congestion since December 18 last and since then only one car of grain was loaded to make space for turning elevator stocks—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should not read the letter but ask his question directly. I believe he has already asked his question.

Mr. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): The point is that these farmers are on a unit quota and many have not been able to haul even one load in this crop year. I wonder if the minister has looked into the seriousness of this situation?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for bringing this point to my attention. We try to bring to the attention of the Wheat Board all those delivery points where difficulties seem to be occurring, and the board tries to draw up a program for moving grain from those points where it has not been moving.

WHEAT—REVISION OF ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the proposals made and the problems raised in the debate on Monday on the government's wheat acreage reduction program, what steps is the minister taking to deal with these matters? Will [Mr. Speaker.]

he be making a further statement announcing any revisions to the program?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member he is inviting the minister to make a general statement. Perhaps the minister should indicate simply whether such a statement might be made on motions.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): No, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to make a statement at present on motions. Of course, regulations in connection with the plan are being developed. We had taken into consideration before the debate most of the points which were raised the other night.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the widespread confusion on the Prairies as a result of the minister's statement—

Mr. Baldwin: And in the government.

Mr. Korchinski: —how soon will the government make clear to the people concerned what is to be done?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, an outline of the program is being prepared and should be available for mailing to permit holders in the near future. This will counteract the confusion which has been spread by hon. members opposite.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not deal with one part of the question I asked previously. I was inquiring as to what steps the government is taking, in response to certain proposals made and certain problems which were raised in the debate on Monday. Is the government considering making any changes in its announced program?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understood the hon. member's question in the first instance and suggest again that it ought to be answered by way of a statement on motions. I understand the hon. member for Mackenzie has a supplementary.

Mr. Korchinski: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Will the inspectors to be employed in connection with the acreage reduction program be made available by manpower offices, or will the government appoint them under a system of political patronage?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!