

*Oral Questions*

Halifax to Quebec City? If the Minister of Veterans Affairs is unable to answer this, perhaps the Prime Minister would answer.

**Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I have indicated that I will be pleased to take notice of the question and provide the hon. member with an answer.

GOVERNMENT DECISION ON MOVEMENT OF NAVAL RESERVE  
HEADQUARTERS

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, it poses a great difficulty to the opposition that the Minister of National Defence is not in the House to answer this important question. The acting minister has no knowledge of it, so I will address my question to the Prime Minister. Will he, on behalf of his cabinet colleagues, deny that the government intends to move Naval Reserve Headquarters from the City of Halifax to Quebec City in order to increase the presence of the Canadian navy in the Province of Quebec? Is that plan afoot? Will that happen? Will he admit it, or will he deny it?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of National Defence is attending graduation ceremonies at Canadian Forces Base Moose Jaw, in Saskatchewan. He is a very regular attendant in the House. I think the acting minister was quite correct in saying that he would take notice on the minister's behalf. The question will be answered on the first day that minister returns.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER ACT ON ISSUE

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** I think, Madam Speaker, that the Prime Minister of Canada knows the traditional history of the City of Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia in relation to Canada's naval force. We have just had a \$500 million expansion of the dockyard in Halifax. We have always associated the Canadian Navy with the east coast and the City of Halifax. Will he now undertake not to do anything drastic with respect to removal of Canadian naval facilities and resources from the City of Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia to the Province of Quebec, purely for the purpose of increasing the presence of the Canadian Navy in the Province of Quebec to satisfy the demands of persons in that province, and not in connection with National Defence or with our role in NATO?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I repeat that the question will be properly answered by the minister, but I would want to make it quite clear that the minister never acts in an arbitrary sense, just because, as the hon. member says, some Member of Parliament asks him to do a certain thing. I am sure that if he has made any decision in that area he will have made it after a very extensive consultation and with the support of the Armed Forces themselves.

• (1130)

GRAIN

LEVELS OF ADVANCE PAYMENTS

**Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport on increasing the levels of financial limits under the Prairie Grains Advance Payments Act. I had prior discussion with the minister, prior correspondence, and have given him notice of the question. Is the minister now in a position to announce that the levels will be increased, bearing in mind that the last time they were increased was in 1975, and also bearing in mind that if those levels could be increased it would give some help to hard-pressed prairie farmers who are in a cash-short position, so that when the new crop comes off they will be in a position to pay their bills, which not only will benefit themselves but the whole western economy?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, as I indicated to the hon. member before, there was a preliminary discussion of that possibility in one of the cabinet committees. It was decided to put this issue in the wider context of western grain policies. Consequently, I will not be in a position to confirm or deny the possibility of increasing the maximum until some time in the fall.

In the meantime, I would like to underline the fact that today is the last day of the crop year. I would also underline the fact that Canada has done extremely well in the last year. Almost all records with regard to types of grain and ports have been broken. Therefore, there is a compensation for the lower price in the fact that the quantities in this crop year have been extremely high.

POSSIBLE BENEFITS TO WESTERN COMMUNITIES

**Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette):** Madam Speaker, what the minister says is true. I submit to him that the reason we have these record levels of exports is as a result of many of the things put in place by the former minister of transport, the hon. member for Vegreville.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mayer:** Also, it is small comfort to prairie farmers that, even though there is an increase in exports, they are being paid less per bushel.

Let me point out to the minister a couple of matters he should take into consideration when talking about increasing the levels of cash advances. First, he will know that the Canadian Wheat Board borrows money at prime minus one quarter per cent. That is something he should consider when he is looking at whether to raise the cash advance levels. As an economist, he will know that for a very few million dollars he can put money into circulation to roughly 150,000 Canadian farmers. That would benefit virtually every community in western Canada, as well as having a ripple effect throughout the whole economy. I ask the minister to consider those points