

Inquiries of the Ministry

vice president of C.B.C. network broadcasting. Has this gentleman been released or suspended from his previous position?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this question might be placed on the order paper.

Mr. Winkler: It is a very urgent one, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It may be, but I fail to see the urgency. I suggest to the hon. member that he might indicate the urgency of the question since it is not readily apparent to the Chair.

Mr. Winkler: The urgency is very evident from the controversy that existed previously and possibly still exists within the C.B.C., and it is of such urgency that I now put the question to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I shall be—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The fact that the hon. member is now putting the question to the Prime Minister does not make it more urgent. I suggest to the hon. member that the question might well be debated later on this evening.

GRAINCHURCHILL, MAN.—STORAGE IN
TERMINAL ELEVATOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Can the minister say whether the wheat board has made a decision regarding the storage of grain in the Churchill terminal elevator this winter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I understand the situation from the wheat board they are now having discussions with the railway companies about the availability of cars to move as much as possible of Canada's crop to port in all directions. I further understand that at the present time there is some difference of opinion as to the availability of box cars, and this is now being discussed between the railways and the wheat board.

Mr. Simpson: As a supplementary question can the minister say when the wheat board will be in a position to determine whether or not it is going to store grain at Churchill this winter?

[Mr. Winkler.]

Mr. Sharp: No, I am not certain about that matter, Mr. Speaker. I do know there is some difference between the board and the railway companies. This concerns matters of facts, not of opinion, and until these facts are settled the wheat board will not be in a position to make a decision.

Mr. Simpson: I wish to direct one further supplementary to the Minister of Transport. Can he say whether the wheat board has been made aware of the large rehabilitation program which is planned for Churchill terminal this winter, and which can be more satisfactorily carried out if the elevator is filled this winter?

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. gentleman. I did not realize that question was for me. Since the question concerned the Canadian Wheat Board, for which I do not answer, I felt it would perhaps be inappropriate for me to say whether they were made aware of it. I was aware of it. I think probably this is one of the considerations which has been brought before the Canadian Wheat Board, but I would not be able to speak for them.

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister aware of the hundreds of thousands of bushels of grain being stored in makeshift bins across the prairies which the producers would like to get into permanent storage?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker; we are very much aware that this is the greatest crop this country ever has produced, and I imagine there will be difficulties regardless of the very great success the Canadian Wheat Board has had in selling and moving the grain.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, would the minister say whether the terminal elevators in both Moose Jaw and Saskatoon will be used to their fullest capacity this winter? They have not been so used recently.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I will ask the wheat board what are their intentions.

[Later:]

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I should like clarification of the answer he gave. When the minister answered, was it his intention to indicate that Canadian National