

Inquiries of the Ministry

enhance employment in Canada as well as oil sales, which would be very much in Canada's interest.

CONSUMER AFFAIRSINCREASE BY EATON'S AND SIMPSON'S
IN CHARGE ACCOUNT INTEREST RATES

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs perhaps his Parliamentary Secretary might deal with this question. In light of the announced intention of Eaton's and Simpson's to raise their interest rates on revolving and instalment charge accounts, can the minister inform the House whether he or his officials are investigating this apparent collusion with a view to prosecution under the Combines Investigation Act?

[Translation]

Mr. Paul Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): I will take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, will the minister indicate whether he is preparing legislation to restrict the interest charges that retail stores and others may impose on their customers?

[Translation]

Mr. Langlois: I will also take the second part of the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSNIGERIA-BIAFRA—SUGGESTION THAT
POPE ACT AS MEDIATOR

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Since we have established diplomatic relations with the Vatican, could the minister not ask the Pope to act as mediator in the Nigeria-Biafra conflict, in order to alleviate the suffering in that part of the world?

[English]

GRAINRAPESEED—AVAILABILITY AT
TERMINAL POSITIONS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio who answers for the Can-

[Mr. Greene.]

adian Wheat Board. Since, according to the weekly grain letter issued by James Richardson and Sons, exporters of rapeseed have not been able to take advantage of markets because of the unavailability of rapeseed at terminal positions, could the minister indicate whether this is the fault of the railways under the block system or is it the fault of the Wheat Board?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think I should bring to the attention of the hon. member that the question as asked is hardly in order. He is asking the minister to express an opinion whether a particular situation is the fault of one party or another. I do not think the question as asked is in order.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question. Can the minister indicate to the House whether in fact there is a shortage of rapeseed at terminal positions so that exporters cannot fill their orders?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, there are good quantities of rapeseed available at the terminals and any shipments required for sales are certainly provided in quick order.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatoon-Humboldt. In view of the fact that space for rapeseed in the west coast terminals was apparently allocated before wheat acreage reduction caused a heavy increase in rapeseed production and subsequent sales, does the minister now consider the space allocated for this grain adequate under present conditions?

Mr. Speaker: I wonder whether that supplementary question is in order, but in view of the importance of the matter the minister may wish to reply.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I believe it is adequate but the matter is under review with the prospect of major markets in mind.

[Later:]

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question. Since the two agents of the Wheat Board, Mr. Joe Caplan and Humboldt Milling Company, have been suspended as agents for the Wheat Board, I should like to ask the minister whether it is the intention of the Wheat Board to reinstate them as buying agents for the Board?