

feed grain and rapeseed are produced. I share with the Minister of Agriculture the view that the fullest use should be made of fertilizers and sprays and the best possible techniques should be employed so that, now that we have the grain system operating well, the farmers will be in a position to produce grain at the lowest possible cost.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

• (1450)

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN SUBSIDIZED PRICE OF WHEAT
FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question relating to the two-price system. In view of the fact the international wheat price is at least 50 cents above the domestic price paid by the millers of \$1.95½ a bushel, can the minister inform the House whether the subsidized price of \$3 a bushel will be increased by at least 50 cents in comparison with what was paid last year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): The \$3 price ensures, of course, that the farmer in the prairie region obtains that price for the wheat consumed in Canada, and that price is still well above the international price.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Assiniboia for a last supplementary and then go to the hon. member for Richmond.

Mr. Knight: In view of the fact the pay-out is made on the basis of all six grains and that wheat producers could lose up to \$30 million on the basis of what the millers are paying and the international price, can the minister inform the House whether the system will be revised so that payment can be made on the basis of bushels?

Mr. Lang: The matter of the difference in pay-out procedures was, of course, the subject of the original question which I answered. I should like to correct the hon. member though: payment was not made on the basis of six grains but rather on an acreage basis to the farmers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously this difficulty will not be resolved this afternoon or during the question period.

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[Translation]

POST OFFICE

INQUIRY RESPECTING CALENDAR PUBLISHED BY
DEPARTMENT

Therefore I recognize the hon. member for Richmond.

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Postmaster General.

Since on January 10 the minister told the House that he would willingly take appropriate action concerning my request if he were given the proof that French Canadians send greeting cards for the St. John the Baptist day, could the hon. minister tell us whether he considers the possibil-

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ity of having a new Post Office calendar published for 1973 in order to redress that injustice?

Hon. André Ouellet (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I specified to the hon. member that there was no injustice in that, that it was not a real calendar and that next year we could check again—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I should like to suggest that this question, as I said a few days ago, could be placed on the order paper. I really do not see any urgency in that. Perhaps the hon. member could ask a supplementary question—

[English]

And after that I will recognize the hon. member for South Shore.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the hon. minister whether he can inform the House of the criteria used to consider Hallowe'en and St. Patrick's as rush periods for the mail in Canada—

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[English]

FISHERIES

INQUIRY AS TO RESCINDING OF BAN ON WHALING

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a whale of a question for the Minister of the Environment. In light of the scientific data on sustainable yield concerning whales and the minister's press release of July 4, 1972, advocating adherence to the optimum sustainable yield principle, is it the minister's intention to rescind his announced ban on Canadian whaling of December 22 in the hope that the whaling industry located at Blandford in Nova Scotia may continue its operations under a government controlled quota?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): No, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member is aware, the catch last year was three times the sustainable yield.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PROVISION OF IN PERSON SERVICE AT OFFICES—
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITING OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the continuing long delays being experienced by claimants for unemployment insurance benefits, can the minister advise whether consideration is being given to in person service at unemployment insurance offices to expedite claims?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): That program was inaugurated about a month ago. If it has not yet reached the hon. member's constituency, perhaps he would be good enough to give me the details and I will see what can be done.