

Inquiries of the Ministry

and No. 2 northern wheat. At the present time only a limited quantity of these grades is being shipped from country elevators. Currently, wheat moving to ocean ports for export is required to fill sales contracts negotiated some time ago, and involves essentially the lower grades of wheat which were in heavy supply in the previous crop year.

The board will make every effort to merchandise the higher grades available from this year's crop, and they expect that in the near future they will be in a position to commence moving in greater volume these particular grades of wheat.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Will the minister indicate present plans regarding No. 1 wheat, and will he see that the unused space in the terminal elevators at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw will be used to the fullest extent? When the minister says that it is expected shortly there will be a further demand for No. 1 and No. 2 northern, does he mean that new orders have been obtained in some parts of the world for these grades of wheat?

Mr. Winters: The whole matter involves the advantage that can be taken of the flexibility of contracts. When this question was asked last Friday during consideration of my estimates I said I would obtain more specific information, and I am seeking that information now.

MOVEMENT OF TOUGH GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, let me also answer a question which was asked on November 16 by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner) having to do with wet or tough grain. Fortunately, the quantities of high moisture grain are not as large this year, being confined primarily to the Peace River area.

At the moment the Canadian Wheat Board is giving shipping priority to the grains and grades of grain that are required to meet immediate sales commitments. Very shortly, however, the Wheat Board will authorize over-quota delivery privileges to assist producers who may be holding stocks of high moisture grain, which is liable to go out of condition unless delivery is made before the warm weather. The board is confident that the problem is manageable, and will do everything necessary to ensure that this grain is not allowed to go out of condition.

[Mr. Winters.]

BROADCASTING

DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING REFERENCE OF WHITE PAPER TO STANDING COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. W. Prittie (Burnaby-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the government house leader. Is the minister carrying on discussions with other party house leaders in reference to the broadcasting committee and the white paper on broadcasting? I believe the Secretary of State said last week there was some difficulty as to an agreement to send this white paper to a committee without very much debate.

Hon. G. J. McIlraith (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the motion is debatable and I have asked whether there might be a possibility of referring the white paper on broadcasting to the committee without debate.

SUPPLY

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

OLD AGE SECURITY—IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN PENSION WITHOUT MEANS TEST

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, in opening the debate on the final supply motion I believe it is necessary to deal with some of the aspects of this administration before moving the motion I intend to place before the house. At this time we are all cognizant of some matters that have been poorly handled by certain departments of government.

Let me refer first of all to the Department of Agriculture. The minister has brought about an increase in the returns to producers of manufacturing milk. He did not fulfil some of the things he promised, but I believe his approach has been a fair one. For the first time he has obtained the co-operation of the provinces in this respect. The provinces came to his aid and took the minister off the hook so that producers in this field could obtain a further return for their efforts.

Let me also refer to the importation of pork products from foreign countries, which occurred early this year. This importation depressed the economy of agricultural producers and they have not recovered from that depressed position as yet. I note with interest that information was put before the consumer credit committee indicating that the price of pork and other products had remained high in