

Oral Questions

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I feel I should reassess my position. I am given to understand by the Canadian Wheat Board that we have sold about three million tonnes of grain to China, that we could have sold about four million tonnes if there had been additional rolling-stock, and that there could be a market for six million tonnes if we had an efficient transportation system. The Canadian Wheat Board also said we could have grain sales amounting to an extra \$700 million per year if we had a good transportation system.

Instead of talking very nicely and cuddling up to CPR, will the minister bring in legislation which would require CPR to put more boxcars on the rails and ensure that we have enough rolling-stock to haul farmers' grain to market?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly reflect on that recommendation as well. I would welcome discussions with members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, who may not be quite so co-operative in offering assistance in relation to legislation. I believe that some very important steps have to be taken in order to continue to improve our grain handling system.

An analysis of how boxcars and hopper cars work and how fast they can be moved from the prairies to terminals is under way. That analysis is very important. As the recent report from Mr. Snively indicates, the turn-around time on these hopper cars has dropped by about three days in the last few years, and we want further improvement in that regard. I firmly believe that an expansion of facilities on the west coast would also be a very important aspect of improvements to come, and I will continue to press for that.

If the hon. member would join in representations in another direction, it might be in relation to elevator companies so that they move quickly in order to put up additional facilities.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

LACK OF REFERENCE TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN MATERIAL CIRCULATED BY NATIONAL UNITY INFORMATION OFFICE

Mr. Leonard C. Jones (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations. In the propaganda emanating from the National Unity Information Office, no mention whatsoever was made of the Queen and her position in our federal system. Will the minister be kind enough to tell us why this serious error occurred? Why was there such a serious omission? Will it be rectified and, if so, when?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must have misread the information and publications which are coming from that office. The position of the Queen has always been recognized by this government. We have stated quite clearly in all our publications dealing with the constitution that Canada

[Mr. Lang.]

was living under the monarchical system. The position of the government is that this is the way it should be in the future.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Speaker, I received a letter from his very department suggesting that certain information should be supplied to constituency offices and given out by constituency offices. A person from that department came to my office with the material and admitted that there was no information in that propaganda or the brochures which mentioned the Queen. He admitted the omission. Would the minister now be agreeable to admitting it and having it corrected?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the documents to which the hon. member is referring is a series of publications which explain mineral resources in Canada, how equalization functions in this country, the size of the country, how many Canadians there are, the population of every province, and so on.

If the hon. member would like to have the Queen mentioned on every page of every document published by the government, I think that would expose the monarchy to ridicule. I am sure that is not what he has in mind. He should have more respect and common sense than that vis-à-vis the monarchy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FISHERIES

DEPLETION OF INSHORE LOBSTER FISHERY

Miss Coline Campbell (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. It is further to correspondence and meetings with both myself and other groups, such as the Nova Scotia Fishermen's Association, concerning the depletion of lobsters in the inshore lobster fishery and the potential total destruction of the thousands of formerly successful inshore lobster fishermen.

After two successive bad years, will the minister now consider, pending the outcome of the study on the relationship between offshore and inshore lobster fishermen, closing Brown's Bank to the eight or nine offshore lobster boats and request them to fish further offshore, and thus save the livelihood of thousands of inshore fishermen who are affected by this?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, while I am not accepting fully the rather pessimistic conclusions drawn by the hon. member, the fact is scientific evidence appears quite convincing that there is a relationship between offshore and inshore lobster fisheries. Officials of my department and American scientists have been working together. Now we will consult the fishermen to see how this fishery should be managed as one unit with interrelations with the other.

Obviously, these measures may mean restrictions in some of the fishing efforts in the next few years. We are discussing the