

Inquiries of the Ministry

wan. Did the minister give instructions that the statute known as the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act, which is still on the books, be left out of the new Revised Statutes of Canada and, if not, who gave the instructions that it be omitted from our Revised Statutes?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is true that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act is not repealed in the Revised Statutes, following a decision of the Revised Statutes Commission of which I happen to be chairman.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I would suggest to the hon. member that he would not want to confuse the House. The Temporary Wheat Reserves Act was not repealed. It is not listed in schedule A and it remains on the books as a statute of Canada.

Mr. Woolliams: I am not arguing that it is not the law of Canada. I am asking the Minister of Justice, not only in his capacity as Attorney General of Canada but in his capacity as chairman of this commission, who gave the instructions that it not be printed in the Revised Statutes of Canada when it has not been repealed?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That was a joint decision of the commissioners. The same decision was made with respect to about 150 other statutes, so there is nothing remarkable about this.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: The only remarkable thing is the Attorney General of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: I should like to ask him one further question regarding the 150 statutes, more or less, that were left out. Were they statutes that were not repealed?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, statutes that were not repealed, and some of them remain on the books. It was a matter of judgment as to which statutes merited inclusion in the Revised Statutes of Canada. I might say that the Canadian Bill of Rights, under the authorship of a former Prime Minister, the right hon. member for Prince Albert, was not included in the Revised Statutes of Canada but, rather, was included in a separate volume because of its unique character.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I will allow one more supplementary question by the Leader of the Opposition and then we will go on to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

WITHHOLDING BY GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER
TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT—POSITION OF
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether as Minister of Justice he advised the government, of which he is a member, that it is obliged by the law of Canada to comply with statutes on the books, and that he

[Mr. Woolliams.]

intends to dissociate himself from a government which is not complying with the law?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I am a member of the government and I am as interested as anyone else in this government. As a matter of fact, the hon. member for Calgary North welcomed me back from Saskatchewan. The question which farmers in Saskatchewan are asking is, why does Parliament not pass this bill?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the Leader of the Opposition for another supplementary question, but I hope that in the few minutes left in the question period we will not spend our time reviving this debate. For the moment the Chair recognizes the Leader of the Opposition.

• (3:20 p.m.)

Mr. Stanfield: I ask the Minister of Justice specifically whether he condones the government of Canada ignoring a statute of Canada.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada recognizes that there is a debt due to the farmers of western Canada in the amount of \$38.5 million. We are suggesting that payment of \$100 million should satisfy that.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. members are seeking the opportunity to ask supplementaries on this subject. I suggest, with respect, that we could spend the rest of the question period on the same subject, but for the moment the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants.

LEGAL ACTION TO COMPEL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE
PAYMENTS UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Justice. Will he permit certain professors of law in Toronto to take mandamus proceedings against the Minister of Finance to compel him to make the payments under this act, as they have requested him to do, if he himself will not take such proceedings against the Minister of Finance?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the gentlemen concerned can take any action they want. Whether the courts will receive it is another matter.

Mr. McCleave: As a supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again, I hope other hon. members will be given an opportunity to ask their questions; but of course I do not want to interpose myself, and if hon. members have legitimate supplementaries they will be recognized.