

ness on the part of some of the countries involved in the various world food arrangements to make those additional commitments.

**Mr. Brewin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the minister must have misunderstood my question. I was referring to immediate commitments for the current season and as far as I know the Canadian government made no commitment in Rome in respect of that. I am asking about those particular commitments to deal with places where there is an immediate threat of starvation.

● (1510)

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I believe I did understand the question and the hon. member is not accurate in his view in regard to commitments, present or future. My answer referred to other commitments on the part of other countries both for the immediate period and for the future.

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#### AIRPORTS

##### ALLEGED INOPERATIVE INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM AT SYDNEY—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport but because of its urgency—it has only come to my attention—I must direct it to the right hon. Prime Minister or the acting minister. In light of the allegation that the instrument landing system at the Sydney airport has been inoperative since a severe storm in October and—I sincerely hope that this is incorrect—in view of the fact that six of ten scheduled flights could not land on Tuesday of this week because of the low ceiling, in the interest of safety would the minister cause an immediate investigation to be carried out to either deny the allegation or correct the situation if it exists?

**Mr. Cliff McIsaac (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we will certainly check into the allegation that the hon. member has heard and report back to him later this day.

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#### CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

##### PROPOSAL TO HAVE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED ADVISORY BOARD

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. The minister has just announced his intention of creating a so-called elected advisory board to the Canadian Wheat Board and at the same time has indicated that the government will still have control over appointments to this board. Will the government now consider making this board totally and democratically elected so that any suggestion of political interference can be avoided in connection with this representative board?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the procedures which are being

#### Oral Questions

adopted for selection of members to the board follows a commitment made some time ago. The current Wheat Board Act allows for appointment by Governor in Council. The proposal is that the recommendations will be the result of the selection procedure which has been adopted. They will therefore be elected in a fully democratic way. I think that will help ensure the strength and ability of the board to deal with matters in the farmers' interest. It may well be that as soon as we have developed some additional experience in regard to the appropriate form of selection or election, appropriate changes can be made in the Wheat Board Act.

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#### ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

##### PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CENTRE, VANCOUVER—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE ON PLANS, SURVEYS OR LAND OPTIONS

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Will the hon. lady please advise the House of the expenditure that has been made to date by her department on plans, surveys and land options pertaining to the proposed Pacific Environment Centre in Vancouver?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will agree that the question should be put in another way.

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#### FINANCE

##### EFFECT OF REFUSAL OF SAUDI ARABIA TO ACCEPT BRITISH POUND

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, may I put a question to the Minister of Finance? As it has been reported that Saudi Arabia will not accept the British pound in oil payments, can the minister tell the House what his information is about this matter and if it poses a serious problem to the world monetary system?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the repercussions will be complicated and I should not like to speculate upon them right now.

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#### ABORTION

##### REPORTED INCIDENT IN NIAGARA FALLS—SUGGESTED TIGHTENING OF LAW

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In light of the disturbing report of an incident in a Niagara Falls hospital as reported in a Toronto newspaper on December 11, will the minister indicate if he is considering introducing legislation to tighten the present laws on abortion?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have not received any report on the matter from the provincial attorney general who would be the person with