

Inquiries of the Ministry

appreciates. If he did know, he might be sympathetic to the point of view of the government.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, we have waited ten days and nothing has been indicated to cause me to extend sympathy to the government in connection with this matter.

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[Translation]

MANPOWERLOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—TRANSFER OF FUNDS
FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Finance.

Can he tell us whether the government has considered the possibility of transferring funds allocated for the implementation of group local initiative projects to municipal local initiative projects, in view of the fact that several municipalities feel frustrated because of the rejection of some highly worthwhile projects they have submitted.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we shall take the question under advisement.

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• (1530)

[English]

GRAINALLOCATION OF BOXCARS TO POOLS UPON TAKEOVER
OF FEDERAL GRAIN COMPANY ELEVATORS—WAIVER
OF NORMAL NOTICE OF SEVERANCE TO EMPLOYEES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice as minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In the light of the proposed takeover by the pools of the Federal Grain Company facilities, is it intended that the boxcars which would have been allocated to the Federal elevator system will be turned over to the pool system after the takeover?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): The ordinary practice in the event of an exchange of elevators is, I believe, for the portion of the boxcars allocated to those elevators to go along. I expect this will be the procedure in this case. There are some serious questions in relation to congested elevators and particularly facets of the formula, which are under consideration in relation to this recent development.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be allowed one supplementary because we are getting very close to the end of the question period.

Mr. Korchinski: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious matter. It will come to a head on March 10, and I think it should be cleared up before then. In light of the fact that the pools are only buying the facilities, not the farmers, will the minister consider allocating some of

[Mr. Sharp.]

the boxcars which might have gone to that system to another system? May I ask the Minister of Labour whether there was consideration given to waiving the normal five month period in order to provide notice of severance of employment to all those Federal grain employees who will be affected? Was a waiver granted by his department?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, a waiver was granted early in February of the group termination notice under certain terms and conditions, to which the company agreed, which were deemed to fulfil the intent of the act and in the light of an alternative plan proposed by the company with respect to its employees which in many respects went beyond the provisions of the requirements of the code.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Peace River before calling orders of the day.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTSREQUEST TO FACILITATE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the leader of the House whether he would not facilitate the organizational meeting of the Public Accounts Committee so that the committee can complete its examination of the report upon which it is now engaged—it is now almost a year behind—so that the next report of the Auditor General, which is shortly to be made, can be taken up by the committee when it has completed its present survey?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Certainly, we shall be happy to facilitate the organizational meeting of the Public Accounts Committee and to give it every encouragement to pursue its work.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

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AIRPORTSTORONTO—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON SITE OF NEW
FACILITY

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I realize you have had a heavy day on questions, but I have a very important question which I think should be asked in view of what appeared in the press this morning. I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether he is in a position to make an official announcement about a new auxiliary airport for Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: The House might wish to permit the minister to reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Wellington. As I said, we have reached the end of the question period, but the question having been asked the minister might wish to reply briefly. I will then call orders of the day again.