

Inquiries of the Ministry

member for Moose Jaw. If he has a supplementary, I shall recognize him in a moment.

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GRAIN

WITHHOLDING BY GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT—SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT OF WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND BILL C-244

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): I have a question for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister tell the House if he made a request to the Minister of Agriculture of Saskatchewan for postponement of the writ of mandamus served in Saskatchewan last week against the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance? At the same time, can the minister state if there was any request made to him at the meeting of the three prairie agricultural ministers with their federal counterpart for a one-week moratorium on Bill C-244?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has asked two questions and, to my way of thinking, one is not supplementary to the other. Perhaps the minister might reply to the second question. I have some doubts as to the first one.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the request that was made by the prairie Ministers of Agriculture was addressed by them to hon. members opposite as well as through me to my colleagues. It depended on certain understandings in relation to the whole situation covering both the stabilization bill and payment under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CONFERENCES OF FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES—ARRANGEMENTS RESPECTING VOTING BY CANADIAN DELEGATES AND DISPLAY OF FLAGS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the upcoming meeting of Francophone countries and it follows upon a question which I asked the Acting Prime Minister on Friday. Can the minister advise the House what provinces, other than Quebec, are now being consulted about the manner of structure of the delegation and on voting procedures?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Discussions are proceeding with other provinces that have expressed interest in the meeting of the agence, particularly those that will be attending the meeting and will be participating in the Canadian delegation.

Mr. Macquarrie: May I ask the minister if it has been decided that the flag of Canada and the flag of Quebec will be flying at this conference of sovereign states?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, we have had some very useful discussions with the province of Quebec, and I am very

[Mr. Speaker.]

happy to say that this kind of matter did not receive prime consideration.

REPRESENTATION ABROAD OF CANADA AS FRENCH-SPEAKING NATION

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Does the minister consider it proper that a Canadian cabinet minister should go abroad and represent Canada as a French-speaking nation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think Canada is one of the most important French-speaking countries in the world.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, would the minister consider it proper for a cabinet minister to do so to the exclusion of the other language spoken in this country?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. Canada is also one of the most important English-speaking countries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May we have order please.

Mr. MacInnis: I wonder if the minister would take the opportunity to explain the kind of language that we are hearing now in the House. However, on what basis can the Prime Minister allow himself to associate with a cabinet minister who promotes Canada as a French-speaking nation only, as has been done by this minister?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day.

Mr. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister is disturbed by my charge, I not only have the transcript but I have the tape which I will make available to him.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate also rises on a point of order.

Mr. Lundrigan: I should like to raise a point of order regarding the business of the House for the coming week and serve notice of points which should be raised today, in anticipation of something that may happen later. Could I ask the government House leader if discussions can take place among all House leaders to try to make some procedural arrangements for a lengthy response from various parts of the country, not only by the various parties in this House of Commons, to any announcement by the government of a works program for this winter, so as to ensure that all areas of the country receive adequate representation in response to a statement which the Prime Minister would like to make on a works program for this winter.

Mr. MacEachen: When an announcement about a winter works program is made by the government, I am sure there will be an opportunity for members of the House to comment upon it. I gather that my hon. friend is referring to an opportunity for members of this chamber to comment on the program.