

Inquiries of the Ministry

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REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

We have noticed for quite a while the absence in the house of the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Dupuis). Could the minister tell us what success his second representative in Africa, the Minister without Portfolio, has achieved?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we shall have the opportunity to answer questions of that kind later on in the day.

[Text]

AGRICULTURE

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FOR ONTARIO
AND QUEBEC FARMERS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry, who is responsible for agriculture in eastern Canada.

Can he tell us if he has received requests for assistance from farmers or municipal councils so as to compensate for losses incurred through bad weather this year?

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given me notice of his question. As it concerns the Minister of Agriculture I shall ask the latter to reply to it.

[Text]

Hon. Harry W. Hays (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member's question I may say that requests for assistance were received from municipal councils on behalf of farmers who suffered crop losses as a result of weather conditions. They were advised that they should make their representations to the provincial authorities, since the responsibility for providing emergency assistance of this nature rests with the provincial governments. They were also advised that the federal government was prepared to reimburse the provincial government for part of the cost of any

approved assistance programs established by the province to assist these producers.

Early this fall my department entered into an agreement with the government of the province of Quebec to pay half the cost of the freight assistance program established by the province to assist farmers in securing necessary fodder supplies.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Forestry a supplementary question.

Can he tell us whether the experiments made this summer by the Weather Engineering Corporation in Abitibi were carried out under the ARDA program?

Mr. Sauvé: No, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

Hon. Paul Martineau (Pontiac-Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question following the answer of the Minister of Agriculture. The minister stated that he had communicated with the government of the province of Quebec. Could he also state whether he has communicated with the provincial government of Ontario regarding special assistance needed by farmers in the Ottawa valley?

Mr. Hays: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I think it was on August 14, and supplies are now being purchased for these farmers.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Forestry.

Would the minister have an inquiry made on damages done to crops and farmers in the Abitibi and Saguenay-Lake St. John areas through cloud seeding?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, this problem does not come within my jurisdiction.

[Text]

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO APPLICATION OF
ARDA PROGRAM

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Antoine Bélanger (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Forestry. In view of the fact that the minister is about to meet with the provincial ministers responsible for the ARDA program in their respective provinces, in order to discuss the renewal of the agreement concerning that program, does the government intend to enlarge the scope of that