

*Inquiries of the Ministry**[English]*

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, will the Acting Prime Minister accept the condolences of the opposition because of the fact that during the weekend, despite the offer of free food and ten-cent beer, the joint Liberal rally in Calgary could only attract 400 people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Although I recognize the importance of this matter and although I have displayed great leniency in allowing hon. members to ask supplementary questions, I think it might be a good idea for the house to turn to another subject matter on the understanding, of course, that we might return to the present one later.

EXTERNAL AID

BIAFRA—REPLY TO CANADIAN OFFER TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL RELIEF FLIGHT OBSERVERS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Canadian government yet received from the Nigerian or Biafran authorities a reply to its offer to provide neutral observers to inspect flights flying into Biafra from points outside Nigeria?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The answer to that particular question is no, Mr. Speaker. We have not yet received any response. Hon. members will have noticed that the discussions are still going on in Lagos. At least one relief shipment by the International Red Cross was approved. We still hope to work out a system which will be acceptable to both sides. If our offer has been helpful, I am sure everybody will applaud.

AGRICULTURE

SUGGESTED LOANS TO EASTERN CANADIAN MILK PRODUCERS

[Translation]

Mr. Bernard Dumont (Frontenac): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Agriculture, but in his absence I shall direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

We have just learned that the government has lent \$1 million to Korea for the development of its milk industry. Would the Department of Agriculture grant similar loans to dairy producers in eastern Canada?

Mr. Florian Côté (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture): I think, Mr. Speaker, if we look back on what has been done these past years by the Canadian Dairy Commission, it will be found that grants totalling \$125 million are now being handed out to Canadian dairy producers.

GRAIN

BOX CAR ALLOCATION—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. On Thursday and Friday, July 3 and 4, the minister replied to a series of questions I asked concerning the allocation of railway rolling stock to terminal elevators that have space. The minister advised he would have that on his shopping list when he was in Winnipeg on Monday, July 7. I ask the minister to advise the house specifically—I emphasize the word “specifically”—what action the government is taking to require the railways—I emphasize the word “require”—to supply sufficient additional railway rolling stock to allow for the full maximum unload capacity in the terminals at the Lakehead to the used?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as I said previously, and as confirmed by the acting minister when I was away, this is now being done. The fact is that full co-operation of the railways was requested and is being given.

Mr. Benjamin: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the house whether he and the chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board have given specific figures to the railways as to the additional number of cars that will be required, in addition to those now in service, to meet the five bushel quota by the end of the July and have the railways responded that they will supply these additional cars?

Mr. Pepin: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have a copy of the report showing the number of cars needed at the west coast, at the Lakehead and at the interior terminals and mills per day for the whole duration of time until August 1. I will be glad to show it to the hon. member if it will assist him. As the acting minister stated on Thursday, I believe it was, the totals I