

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Citizenship and Immigration in his prospective capacity as minister of manpower. I have given him notice of this question.

In view of the telegram sent the minister on March 19 by George Burt, Canadian director of the United Automobile Workers, expressing concern over the loss of skilled tradesmen to the United States and the loss of jobs for skilled tradesmen in the automobile and automobile parts industries in Canada, would the minister inform the house whether he is prepared to launch an immediate investigation into the dimensions of the skilled trades drain out of Canada, particularly in view of the shortage of skilled tradesmen in other areas of the economy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that this is not a question but rather a speech. I do not think the question can be accepted.

GRAIN**VANCOUVER—CONSTRUCTION OF SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT POOL ELEVATOR**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Minister of Finance in his capacity as minister reporting for the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the long struggle that we had to persuade the Saskatchewan wheat pool to build an elevator at Vancouver, would the minister consider getting in touch with officials of this grain organization to see whether they would not reconsider the stopping of work on the five million bushel terminal at Vancouver which I understand has been precipitated by the cancelling of the government contract for the elevator at Prince Rupert.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the president of the Saskatchewan wheat pool was in touch with me several days ago. Subsequently I had a letter from the secretary of that organization, and I agreed to see the president as soon as he could come to Ottawa for discussions. The president of the Saskatchewan wheat pool informed me, at the time of the first telephone call, that they had just received bids for the new terminal at Vancouver and that they were 30 per cent above their expectations. For this reason in particular they were reconsidering whether they should proceed, [Mr. Lewis.]

and I asked the president of the Saskatchewan wheat pool to come to Ottawa and have a talk with us here before making a decision.

Mr. Hamilton: As a supplementary question, would the minister consider discussing with his colleague the Minister of Agriculture some readjustment in the handling rates on the west coast to deal with the very inflated costs there at the present time?

Mr. Sharp: I am sure the hon. member for Qu'Appelle knows, as do the Minister of Agriculture and myself, that the Board of Grain Commissioners is a semi-autonomous body, and it would be improper for us to make representations of that kind with regard to the rates being charged by elevators.

TROIS-RIVIÈRES—POSSIBLE CLOSING OF ELEVATORS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J.-A. Mongrain (Trois Rivières): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that the grain elevators of Trois-Rivières are doomed to close shortly, due to a situation that has lately arisen, unless a drastic and urgent solution is found to solve their problems? Would the minister consider appointing a special committee at once to look into this matter with the interested parties?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: It is difficult to determine the urgency of this question. The minister has noted it and I would ask the hon. member to put it on the order paper.

Mr. Mongrain: May I bring it up at ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

[*English*]

WEST COAST—INQUIRY AS TO TERMINAL CAPACITY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosithern): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Does the minister consider the existing terminal capacity at west coast ports sufficient to service the demand for Canadian grain consigned through those ports.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question should be placed on the order paper.

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to