

*Inquiries of the Ministry***GRAIN****ACCEPTANCE OF PAYMENT IN
SOFT CURRENCIES**

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. In light of the serious lag in Canadian wheat sales and the resulting economic plight of western farmers, would the minister give consideration to taking so-called soft currencies in payment for wheat and other cereal grains and oilseeds?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I shall pass this question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, of course the question of sales of grain is in the hands of the Canadian Wheat Board, as the hon. member knows. Sales have in the past been made for currencies other than dollars and will be so made in the future.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In light of complaints being made about the growing cost of marketing grain, would the minister recommend to the appropriate committee that it take a look at the Canadian Wheat Board and the question of marketing costs at this time in order to find out what it actually costs to market a bushel of wheat? I ask that because we are in competition with the rest of the world.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to give consideration to that representation.

**FLAX—REPORTED LACK OF SUPPLIES
FOR EXPORT**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): May I direct a supplementary question to the Minister without Portfolio, Mr. Speaker. Further to the question I asked on November 7 in regard to adequate supplies of flax at the Lakehead, and in view of the fact that at present there are approximately only 1.4 million bushels of flax in position for export there, can the minister tell the House what steps have been taken to ensure that additional supplies of flax are moved into export position at that point?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my answer to the previous question, the Canadian Wheat Board has been giving top priority
[Mr. Speaker.]

to the movement of flax. Accordingly, any handler or owner of flax in the market can move flax into position. The actual movement of the flax then depends on the decision of that owner or handler.

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of how this grain is called forward. I asked the minister what additional steps have been taken to ensure that something happens.

[Later:]

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Further to the question asked by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, may I ask the Minister without Portfolio if he has now completed his investigations and determined if flax sales were lost, as reported? Also, has the government given active consideration to placing flax and other oilseed crops under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, my investigations have gone so far as to indicate that a definitive answer to that question is not likely to be possible. With respect to the other issue involving flax and rapeseed, I have indicated previously that this is the sort of question which deserves fundamental examination.

**REQUEST FOR APPEARANCE OF WHEAT BOARD
BEFORE COMMITTEE**

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): May I direct another question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, Mr. Speaker. Since the agricultural committee did not complete its studies of the annual report of the Wheat Board, can the minister assure the House at this time that during the fall and winter months the Wheat Board will be called before that committee so that the annual report can be thoroughly studied and so that future actions of the Wheat Board can also be taken into consideration?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Wheat Board will be available for the committee to question. Of course, I should like to leave the question of specific timing for discussion with the committee itself.

**SASKATCHEWAN PLAN TO BARTER
WHEAT FOR MACHINERY**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have the Canadian Wheat Board and the Department of Industry, Trade