

that it would not have enough railway cars to move grain in 1979 and 1980.

In view of the fact the CPR now says it will not have enough cars, will the minister require CPR, under the provisions of section 262 of the Railway Act, to supply sufficient accommodation for this grain movement?

Mr. Lang: The hon. member is misleading the House in suggesting that I thought at any time that CPR had enough equipment. If he would check those answers, I hope he will be good enough to advise the House that I made it clear at the time that I did not necessarily share the view of the CPR which had been put to me about their having enough equipment.

When I saw the letter, not only to the Canadian Wheat Board but an identical letter by the president to me which referred to the shortage of equipment which CPR foresaw for 1979, I began to take immediate action in relation to the question of further cars, and I hope to be able to report further on that soon.

Mr. Benjamin: I hope I did not imply, and I certainly did not mean to imply, that the minister misled the House. He passed on information whereby CPR misled him.

In view of the urgent requirement to enlarge our capacity to move grain and to increase grain sales to China, which is being undermined by CPR—in fact, I think they have lied to all of us—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Benjamin:—will the minister now give an undertaking that the farmers will not have to pay for up to 2,000 hopper cars tendered for by the Wheat Board, and will he give an undertaking to implement the Hall commission's recommendations regarding the Crowsnest statutory grain rates, so that henceforth the railway will be responsible for providing sufficient equipment to move our grain?

Mr. Lang: Those are several major questions which are not really related to the earlier sense of the hon. member's question. I did indicate to him that I was taking very seriously the issue of CPR ensuring there is enough equipment later in 1979 and I will be able to say more about that at a later date.

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● (1427)

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING REGULATION 57—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I want to come back once again to regulation 57 under the Unemployment Insurance Act. I do so for the fifth time; the

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minister may find me somewhat tenacious, but if I am, it is that I still believe in his honesty and therefore that he will solve this case. I also put this question because of the serious unfairness and discrimination this regulation visits upon many farm workers who have never been consulted and who will have to live off welfare if the situation does not change. In fact, only the minister can solve the problem because it stems from regulation 57 on page 124, and is not part of the Unemployment Insurance Act. According to that regulation, a worker has to work 125 full days. As the minister is aware of this, I merely want to ask him when he is going to give us a final answer on this matter. He promised he would look into the situation. That was about a month ago. When will he give us his answer?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we did study regulation 57 and I believe a letter was sent to the hon. member in that regard. Moreover, I am sure consultations were held with farm workers; but I shall look into the matter once again, further to the representations of the hon. member.

Mr. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, the minister has just said that consultations were held with the employers. However, none were held with the employees. I looked into the matter myself: today, 90 per cent of all farmers are opposed to that regulation in provincial organizations, and all workers are opposed to it because it is unfair as compared with other industries. That is why I should like to ask the minister whether he can give us a final answer before December 31.

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[English]

HEALTH

SALMONELLA CONTAMINATION OF TURKEYS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has been reported that as many as 83 per cent of the turkeys being sold in Toronto are contaminated with salmonella. Can the minister tell the House why this contamination is so high, and why no action has been taken by her department to reduce it?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have just received a briefing notice on this. I have only just returned from my constituency and have not had time to study it. I prefer to study this matter and, if I am satisfied that the briefing answers the question fully, I will send a copy to the hon. member.

Mr. Yewchuk: Since the Minister of National Health and Welfare is not informed on this matter, I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture, who is also involved.

About 5,000 cases of salmonella poisoning per year are reported in this country, the largest percentage being in chick-