

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. James Richardson (Acting Minister of Housing): I will be glad to have that suggestion brought to the attention of the Canadian Transport Commission.

go west and find out. He will then get an answer to that suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the right hon. gentleman rising for the purpose of asking a question?

GRAIN**WHEAT—TWO PRICE SYSTEM AND ACREAGE REDUCTION PAYMENTS**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In the light of statements made recently by the minister, will he inform the house if it is the government's intention to institute a two price system for wheat and a program of compensation for acreage reduction on the prairies. Can he also inform the house of the government policy on these two matters.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, it is gratuitous observations such as the minister has just made that result in the necessity of answers being given by the opposition.

What I wish to ask the minister is this: In view of the increasingly calamitous conditions in the prairies—the Minister of Finance bends his head in the negative, is he going to do anything about it—will the government provide emergency legislation to meet the serious situation, or will the minister have to set up himself as a task force to go out west to find out how serious the situation is?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): In response to the hon. member's question as to the content of statements made recently, what I said, or what I intended to say, was that these proposals had been made to the government by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and by other bodies.

Mr. Olson: As I indicated, we have received representations—

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why don't you act?

Mr. Gleave: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the house that it is not the intention of the government to say to the farmers of western Canada that it is abandoning any real effort to sell or dispose of stocks of western grain?

Mr. Olson: —respecting the two price system, and I am sure my right hon. friend would want us to consider them very carefully. This examination ought to include the reasons why his government rejected this proposal on a number of occasions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: As has been indicated positively on a number of occasions, the government intends to do everything possible to be helpful.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That statement is false. But my question is this—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. Does the government in this session intend to implement a two price system for wheat?

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister himself used to advocate the two price system; has he changed his mind?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Olson: The government has received representations from provincial legislatures and a number of farm organizations. What I said last night was that these representations had been received.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that on television last night I heard him say, not that he had received these representations but that the government was giving serious consideration to a two price system for wheat and acreage reduction payments, can I ask the minister if this is being considered by the government as a matter of policy, and if the government is likely to carry out the commitment it made to the western farmers of a guaranteed price for wheat and a two price system for wheat?

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): If the minister is not able to give the house any assurance about the two price system, is he able to say whether there will be a just price for farmers?

Mr. Olson: Whatever the government does will be just.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I suggest to the minister he should [Mr. Nowlan.]

Mr. Olson: What I said on television, disregarding the interpretations that were put on