

Inquiries of the Ministry

(Text):

HEALTH AND WELFAREBRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED REFUSAL OF
MEDICAL AID TO EMPLOYABLE
UNEMPLOYED

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has the attention of the minister been drawn to statements in the Vancouver press that in future the British Columbia government is going to refuse to supply medical aid to employable unemployed drawing welfare payments because of the refusal of the federal government to share the costs? If this is so, has the minister any comment to make and will consideration be given to the situation?

Hon. J. W. Monteith (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have not seen the article in question. I shall be glad to look into it and advise the hon. member.

GRAINLAKEHEAD—INQUIRY AS TO REPORTED
STORAGE SPACE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, notice of which has been given. This question is caused by concern expressed at the lakehead over the very large storage space, over 18 million bushels, available in the elevators there and the fact that deliveries from the west by rail are very slow.

I wonder whether the department has any information which would substantiate or indicate that this situation is merely a temporary one, in view of the employment that is involved.

Mr. W. H. Jorgenson (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving notice of his intention to ask this question. As of January 23, 1961, 76 million bushels of grain were in store at the lakehead terminal, an increase of 7 million bushels since January 11. A total of 4,488 box cars are en route to the lakehead. When these cars arrive and are unloaded the stocks of grain will total approximately 83 million bushels.

The total rated capacity for grain at the lakehead is 94,500,000 bushels, but it is recognized that working space must be kept available. It is estimated that the active working capacity at the lakehead terminals is 83 million to 85 million bushels.

[Mr. Hees.]

(Translation):

HOUSINGMONTREAL—REPORTED VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIZED
PROJECT

Mr. C. E. Campeau (St. James): Mr. Speaker, referring to the *Montreal Gazette* of this morning, I see an article entitled, "Ex-Slum Dwellers Snub Dozois Bid, 248 Units Empty".

May I ask the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Walker) if he would inform the house whether or not these reports on the Jeanne Mance habitations in Montreal are correct?

(Text):

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I did read the article, and I am very happy to be able to say that these magnificent buildings, Habitation Jeanne Mance, in Montreal, have been a great experiment in subsidized housing. There are a total of 796 units, of which 524 units are already occupied, 174 finished units are vacant and 98 units are unfinished. We expect to have all units rented by May 1.

This project is administered entirely by the housing authority appointed by the city of Montreal, and it is true that many of the displaced persons have been placed elsewhere in satisfactory dwellings. That is quite often the way. These new projects are often slow in getting under way, as in Regent Park North, a similar enterprise in Toronto. However, we expect we will have a very happy experience in this greater Montreal experiment in subsidized housing.

TRADERUSSIA—INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS
FOR SALE OF WHEAT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. Horner (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Have there been any negotiations regarding the sale of wheat to the U.S.S.R., and if so what is the present position of those negotiations?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, negotiations have been going on with representatives of the government of the U.S.S.R. I am hopeful that agreement will be arrived at in consequence of those negotiations for the sale of 150,000 tons of wheat.

Mr. W. M. Benidickson (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question. May I ask the Prime Minister what has been the amount of deliveries to date under the 400,000 ton agreement made in 1959.