

Inquiries of the Ministry

the warning by a spokesman for the striking navigational-aid electronic technicians that there will be increasing disruptions on the west coast and a lack of radio safety on vessels and in light of the major disruptions in air travel, can the Prime Minister assure the House that a statement will be made tomorrow with regard to these matters in order that the country can be allayed of any fears related thereto?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it will depend on the results of the meeting with the mediator this afternoon and whether the union will want to meet the mediator later in the day.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will allow the hon. member for Hamilton West one last supplementary on this subject.

Mr. Alexander: Can the Prime Minister advise whether prosecutions will be instituted against the electronic technicians who are not abiding by the law?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I believe the President of the Treasury Board is considering that matter at this time.

[Later:]

May I take this opportunity to add to the answer I gave to the leader of the New Democratic Party. When I talked about a mediator I said he might be a new one. I am told it is the same mediator as before—Professor Gordon Simmons.

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[Translation]

FINANCE**SUGGESTED CLOSER STUDY OF POSITION OF CANADIAN DOLLAR**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Would he tell us whether it would not be advisable to study more thoroughly the problem of the Canadian dollar, since some observers have suggested that the present situation is prejudicial to the Canadian people?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I accept the hon. member's recommendation, especially to study from day to day the condition of the Canadian dollar.

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[English]

GRAIN**TWO-PRICE SYSTEM FOR WHEAT—SUGGESTED EXTENSION TO ALL CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCERS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. It has to do with the two-price system for wheat. Before I ask my question, I want to congratulate him on his new portfolio, as do all from the province of Saskatchewan.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Alexander.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: In view of the fact that a distribution of money is to be made under the two-price system for wheat, is the government prepared to have that payment made not only to the wheat farmers but also to all cereal grain producers? I ask that question in view of the fact that many farmers went out of wheat under the Lift program and therefore will not benefit as a result of the distribution. In addition, I ask the minister whether the three western Ministers of Agriculture gave him the advice that that is the way in which justice would be done and equity accorded to farmers in general?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I did receive comments and representations from many quarters including the Ministers of Agriculture of the three prairie provinces, farm organizations such as Unifarm and so on, suggesting a method of distribution which would avoid distorting production patterns in the short run and would also recognize production practices which have been adopted in the most recent past. I assure the right hon. member that we are giving very serious consideration to these representations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister whether the three Ministers of Agriculture did in fact recommend that to him? Also, when he is replying he might say when it is expected the distribution will be made.

• (1210)

Mr. Lang: The discussions I held with the Ministers of Agriculture were private and confidential in their nature and I cannot comment specifically upon them, although all those gentlemen have, I believe, made their personal views known to the press and those views are therefore available to the right hon. gentleman. The timing of the payment will be announced in due course.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Might we know the date of the distribution so that we would have some idea of when the election will take place?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

TWO-PRICE SYSTEM FOR WHEAT—METHOD OF PROVIDING MONEY AND MAKING PAYMENTS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): May I ask the minister whether legislation will be brought down to provide for the acreage payment to be made or whether this will be done by way of an item in the estimates? May I also ask whether payments will be made to correspond with the crop year or with the closing of the pool accounts?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): All these questions are really linked together and require an announcement of policy in connection with timing and the technique of making payments. Such an announcement will deal with all these matters at the same time.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): May I ask the minister whether he is now in a position to tell us when he will be announcing the acreage formula on which the two-price system will be based, and when the farmers can actually expect to receive some money?