

ministers have continuing, ongoing knowledge of matters not in the public domain and are taking actions daily of public interest, and in view of the fact that guidelines in respect of cabinet ministers currently do not cover the activities of their spouses, nor is there even full disclosure required, will the minister indicate whether he is at least willing to change the order of reference to the committee so that the guidelines in respect of cabinet ministers could be considered first and without delay?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. I would say to the hon. member, through you, that at the present time there are no rules applying to private members of parliament such as apply to cabinet ministers. These rules now govern our conduct, whereas private members of the House of Commons are free of almost any restriction whatsoever. That is the reason my predecessor in office put forward the guidelines, which I hope will commend themselves to hon. members and others. I would just repeat what the Prime Minister has said: what have we to hide?

An hon. Member: What are you covering up?

Mr. Trudeau: What are you trying to hide?

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AGRICULTURE

MILLABLE WHEAT SHORTAGE—ESTIMATE OF GRAIN FALLING INTO THIS CLASS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, in view of reports that millable wheat may have to be rationed among our customers, I should like to ask the minister in charge of the Wheat Board whether he has received from the Wheat Board an estimate of how much wheat falls into the millable class; and in view of large amounts of grade 3 and 3 utility can the minister say whether any of this wheat will be able to be put into the milling trade both in Canada and overseas?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there is no question of rationing but, rather, of arrangements the Wheat Board may have to make in its selling program. In view of the amounts and qualities of wheat available—fairly large quantities of No. 1CW and 2CW, the usual milling grades—the Wheat Board has been analysing the lower grades to determine milling qualities and has recently found that because of markets and the lower prices, these may represent a desirable commodity.

Mr. Ritchie: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Canadian commitment of one million tons of food, can the minister say how much of this is expected to be wheat and what grade or category this would likely fall into?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we would anticipate that the approximately one million tons would, in fact, be wheat in the ordinary course. The grade would depend upon the desires and tastes of the receiving countries and the arrangements which may be made between them and CIDA. I should say to the hon. member that in addition to the wheat which has already been committed for aid and

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for sale there is an additional quantity still available in respect of which further commitments can be made.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

LEVELLING-OFF OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO STIMULATE GROWTH

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we have now gone through two quarters with zero growth rate in our GNP, the major component for this being slowdown in the export of manufactured goods—which indicates a failure of the government's program for two-year, fast write-offs to stimulate the economy—I ask the Minister of Finance whether he intends to introduce any new programs or proposals to stimulate the economy, and particularly manufacturing in this country?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is right when he refers to the second and third quarter of this year as being two flat quarters after, I should draw to his attention, a period of very strong growth. We are now in a period of slower growth caused primarily by a fall-off in housing and exports, reflecting a stagnant international situation particularly in the economies of our three largest customers, the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom—in that order. It was because of that threat of a recession reflected by those factors that the stimulus was added to the 1975-76 fiscal year in the budget presented in this House two weeks ago.

● (1450)

STEPS TO DIVERT FUNDS TO JOB-INTENSIVE INVESTMENT TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that there is now an increase in unemployment, and one of the problems is that a great deal of investment is going into capital and machinery, I ask the minister whether he is considering any new measures to direct business capital into job-intensive, rather than capital-intensive investment for the sake of creating jobs and stimulating the economy.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, during the period to which the hon. member refers, regarding which he is disturbed about the two-year write-off, manufacturing employment increased substantially for the first time in several years. The total number of new jobs created by Canadians for Canadians in 1973 was 420,000 and in 1974 it was 380,000—over three-quarters of a million; in fact, over 800,000. As a result of these write-offs and the stimulus provided, new jobs for the three-year period ending in the next fiscal year should be well over one million. If the hon. gentleman would compare the growth of the economy in October in this country—about 4.6 per cent—he would see that the negative growth is about minus 3 per cent of the United States and perhaps he could then put his comments in perspective.