

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister without Portfolio when the Minister of Transport is going to be in the house?

STUDENT LOANS**REQUESTS FROM PROVINCES FOR EXTRA FUNDS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. John Burion (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Has he received a request from any province for an extra allocation of funds under the Canada student loans plan and, if so, what has been the response of the federal government to such a request?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have received requests from several of the provinces for additional amounts under this plan. We have, as the hon. member knows, a fairly large amount of money unallocated which we normally allocate after discussions with the appropriate ministers and after we find out the needs of the various provinces. When speaking to the ministers of the various provinces I indicated that funds would be made available for loans that are made under the criteria upon which the provinces have agreed among themselves. We will provide funds even if it requires that we come back to the house with a very short bill in order to take care of this matter.

AGRICULTURE**CONSIDERATION OF PRODUCTION OF LOWER QUALITY HIGHER YIELDING GRAIN**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Will one of the responsibilities of the grains council be to look into and possibly recommend the growing of low quality, high yield grains?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I hope that is one of the first subjects the council will take under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, my question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret that the hon. member for Hamilton West cannot ask his question now because there are a number of supplementaries.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement by Mr. Shuttleworth of the Board of Grain Commissioners that the regulations might be relaxed, is the government in fact planning to relax the regulations pertaining to grades of grain that have not until now been allowed in Canada?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, that statement is also related to the relaxation of the rules so we could allow some farmers in the maritime provinces to try a new variety of grain called "Opal". But we have reason to believe that there is very little or no possibility of this grain degrading the high quality standards that we have in western Canada. I am sure that Mr. Shuttleworth's statement was related to that matter.

Mr. Korchinski: Is this—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is now becoming a debate. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

HOUSING**HAMILTON, ONT.—HEARING OF BRIEFS BY TASK FORCE**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank hon. members for their concern. I would just like to say, with great respect, that a note was passed to me yesterday in appreciation of my efforts to draw Mr. Speaker's attention to myself. The note said that if I continued these efforts much further I would lose ten pounds, and I do not think I can afford to do that.

My question is directed to the Minister of Transport, but I believe this is his day off.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Alexander: I see that the Acting Minister of Transport is here, the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the representations that have been made by many people in Ontario who are doubtful about what is happening with the housing task force, I ask the minister whether the task force intends to attend Hamilton to hear briefs on housing and, if so, when?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the schedule of the task force hearings has been made public. I do not know whether there is a specific date for Hamilton. I do not believe there is. But I will be pleased to relay the hon. member's