

Canadian Dairy Commission, CEMA and the Turkey Marketing Board, which come under my jurisdiction. The rest are under provincial jurisdiction and many of them do not have authority to set prices. Those which have authority to set prices take into consideration the cost of production features when they are negotiating the price with the processors who are going to buy the product. I can tell the hon. member this, and I am sure he is aware of it already, that they never do get exorbitant amounts of money for their products. Most contracts are signed for one year, and if inflation increases production costs during that year the farmers do not get an added bit of pay for the product that year. With this new program, some marketing boards should be asking for less next year.

● (1450)

EFFECT OF ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture and I am hopeful because he is dealing in facts today. In view of demand around the world for increased agricultural production and in view of the need to bring restraint into our economy, has the minister discussed with the Minister of Finance what programs will be adopted in Canada in agricultural research in order that they may be expanded and we might get back to increased productivity and get our economy back under control?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have said it many times before and I will say it again. If all other segments of the economy had increased productivity by the same amount as farmers have, that is 100 per cent per capita in the last ten years while the rest of the economy, only increased productivity by 40 per cent, we would not have to put the kind of programs into effect that we have.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could I ask the minister what progress he has in mind for expansion in agricultural research so that productivity will increase?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member realizes this is no place for a recitation of that sort. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES AT WINNIPEG—
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that some 400 employees are to be laid off from the CPR shops in Winnipeg this Friday evening, and in view of the fact that my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North and I have been raising this matter with the minister's predecessor for some considerable time, can the new Minister of Transport say whether he is in a position to do anything this week to prevent this lay off from taking place?

Oral Questions

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not have anything new to report.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the seriousness of this situation will the minister communicate with the CPR about this matter this week?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will give that matter the serious consideration I always devote to the hon. member's comments.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO CONTROL VIOLENT CRIME—OPPORTUNITY OF MEMBERS TO VOTE ON SEPARATE ITEMS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. I am referring in this question to the statement by the Prime Minister on Thanksgiving Day that the government's program to reduce violent crime would be introduced shortly, and the minister's indication that this was to be the case. Can the minister tell the House today when that package of amendments or statutes will be introduced in the House? Can he also tell the House whether those amendments will be in a form to permit members to vote separately with the respect to each item in the package, bearing in mind that there are reports of such diverse items as gun control, parole and abolition of capital punishment as well as a number of other items. Are members going to have an opportunity to deal with each of those subjects on their merits?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member a definite answer in that it relates to discussions with my colleague and certainly consultations would have to be held with provincial governments and others as to when we can commence drafting the legislation. On the second question, some decisions remain to be made within the government on that issue. As to the nature of any bill or bills to be introduced, however, I would point out to the hon. member that in the normal course of events each bill goes to a standing committee where each separate proposition can be voted on by itself.

ADMINISTRATIVE ERRORS IN CONNECTION WITH RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General on the subject of "administrative errors" as he referred to them last week, resulting in inmates of penitentiaries being released when they ought not to be, often with tragic results. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman now about the converse, where an inmate is kept in custody when his sentence has been completed which occurred not too long ago in the province of New Brunswick. I would ask if the minister can assure the House that in future he will try to keep those prisoners in who should be in, but will also let prisoners out when it is time for them to get out?