

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what requests the hon. member has in mind. If they are reasonable requests and not only those of the hon. member, I am sure we will consider them in detail.

Mr. Horner: In his campaign speech on June 2, 1968, the Prime Minister enunciated agricultural policy in Winnipeg. Since that time all western Canada has sincerely requested that hogs and cattle be deleted from the bill. I would hope that the Prime Minister, having initiated this program, would take into consideration the very strong regional requests in this regard.

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PUBLIC SERVICE**ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JULES DEMICHER—
NATURE OF INVESTIGATION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the department's fair employment practices section inquiring into the dismissal of Mr. Demicher from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce? If so, is the fact that government employees are not covered by the provisions of the Canada Fair Employment Practices Act hindering the fullest inquiry, conciliation and settlement of the claim of unfair treatment by Mr. Demicher?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, a complaint has been lodged under the fair employment practices provisions by an individual. It is not the practice to name that person because we are interested primarily in seeing that justice is done and I do not think it would be consistent with that policy to name everybody who complains. There definitely is co-operation on the part of the Public Service and all my colleagues, as has been obvious for almost ten months. Even though the fair employment practices provisions do not normally apply to the Public Service, when and if complaints are lodged the criteria included in the fair employment practices Act are accepted voluntarily by the Public Service. In this instance a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday to discuss ways and means of handling this delicate situation with a representative of the allegedly aggrieved person and a representative of the Public Service Commission.

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GRAIN**OUTLOOK FOR SALES IN CURRENT CROP YEAR**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. In view of the report put out by the Department of Agriculture regarding the outlook for grain sales in which it is indicated that only about 400 million bushels of wheat will be sold in the current crop year, is the minister as confident as he was six months ago that some

[Mr. Horner.]

700 million bushels of grain will be sold in the current crop year, of which 500 million will be wheat?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will research the basis of the earlier statement he will see that it was indicated the range of wheat sales might be in the order of 400 million to 550 million bushels. That still seems to be a reasonable assumption. At this moment, total grain exports are running well enough ahead of last year's level that the 700 million bushel target can still be attained. It is still a distinct possibility.

Mr. Korchinski: Is the agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union still in existence or is this a lost cause? Is Russia likely to pick up the grain it is supposed to pick up?

Mr. Lang: The agreement, of course, is still in existence. Not very long ago Russia placed an order for flour under that agreement which continues the rate of flour exports at a very high level.

BARLEY—EFFECT OF INCREASED PRICE ON DELIVERIES

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): I have a supplementary question with regard to grain sales for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Can the minister inform the House whether the additional 10 cents per bushel for barley is bringing in the required amount of barley or are we still turning down sales requests?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The flow of barley is stepping up. We hope it will continue to increase. There is space available in some provinces where there are also significant barley quotas available. We are therefore urging the farmers to deliver the grain because the Wheat Board would like to see the flow of barley established before it makes additional sales.

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): In view of the apparent urgency to move barley to the west coast to have it in export position, and in view of the fact there are a large number of producers with large amounts of barley on hand and no delivery dates, can the minister state whether consideration is being given to providing a special delivery quota for that barley?

Mr. Lang: Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, the assigned acre base will remain the basis for delivery eligibility. There are cases where the producer has a legitimate explanation for not having included any barley in his assignment of acres. The Wheat Board takes those cases under consideration in a special way.

Mr. Horner: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question period has already expired. Perhaps the Chair might be allowed to recognize the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock who has been attempting to ask a question for 40 minutes.