

Oral Questions

Mr. Sharp: We have had assurances from that government that Canada is being treated the same as all other countries except the United States and Holland. That continues to be the situation, but this kind of instruction has apparently not been conveyed down the line in an adequate way.

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**MEASURES TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE OF FEED GRAIN IN QUEBEC**

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since for about a month Quebec co-operatives and farmers are unable to obtain feed grain, especially wheat and oats, because the Montreal warehouses are empty, can he tell us whether he is aware of such conditions and if so whether the department intends to act to improve the situation which I find most difficult for producers?

[English]

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have been talking with these people who are using grain and I have no evidence at all of any producer who has gone without grain. If any member of the House has any evidence of producers who have gone without grain he should bring that to my attention by being more specific. We also have the upgrading of rail shipments of grain to eastern Canada, and the Wheat Board will be responsible for any extra increase in the cost that may be involved.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister say whether he has received letters about the matter from Trois-Rivières, Sherbrooke and Quebec co-operatives?

[English]

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I have received many letters of concern but no letter pointing out that they have done without grain.

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TRANSPORT**RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO—AVAILABILITY OF REPORT BY TRANSPORT COMMISSION**

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and arises from my question to him yesterday and his reply regarding the release of the report of the Canadian Transport Commission on rail passenger services. To quote his reply, the minister said:

[Mr. Sharp.]

—I have received a report and it has been communicated to all interested parties.

Has the report been communicated to any member of parliament representing that area, to any elected municipal representative or to the standing committee of the House on transport?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, it has not been released to all those persons.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's answer I wonder if I might ask him, through Your Honour, what parties are more interested than the elected representatives in this House?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

[Later:]

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order and I do so most reluctantly, never having done so before. Yesterday and today I have tried to determine who the Minister of Transport considers to be interested parties in respect of passenger rail services. Obviously it is not members of parliament, elected members of the provincial House, municipal representatives or the standing committee of this House. I think it is perfectly logical to ask the minister whom he considers interested parties in respect of passenger rail services in western Ontario.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE**NORTHERN ALBERTA—REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO SUFFERED CROP LOSSES BECAUSE OF EARLY SNOWFALL**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. What action has he taken with regard to the request by the Minister of Agriculture for the province of Alberta for assistance to those farmers in the northern region of the province who suffered severe losses because of an early snowfall and the inability to harvest their crops?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I met with the Minister of Agriculture for Alberta and we discussed the very matter the hon. member brings to our attention today. In view of the fact that advance interest free payments on grain under the snow are being made, in addition to further consideration we are giving in respect of aid in transportation, etc., and the program the province of Alberta has initiated itself, although that has not been finalized at the present time, we hope to be able to work out an agreement with them very shortly.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Am I to take it from his reply that the federal government is not