

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are a number of members who wish to ask supplementary questions. They will be recognized, but first the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Bellechasse and then return to this matter in a short while.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****DISSENSION WITHIN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE ON  
FEED GRAIN POLICY—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board.

As the minister in charge of the board recently gave an outline of the government feed grain marketing policy to the representatives of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and since Quebec producers were represented by the Union des producteurs du Québec and the Coopérative fédérée, is the minister aware of the scission recently brought about by the departure of the representatives of the UPA and the Coopérative fédérée from the ranks of the CFA over a difference of opinion on the important matter of feed grains?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have been following very closely the differences of view in the country both within different regions and between different regions with regard to this question. What I did indicate before the Canadian Federation of Agriculture yesterday was the confidence of the government about implementation of the principle with which all parties involved agree, namely that feed grains ought to be available to producers of animals across the country at prices which are equitable from one region to another. All parties agree with that and the Speech from the Throne adopted that principle. We also indicated that prior to the beginning of the next crop year we would have in place a solution that would stop the situation of several years ago from occurring again. So far as I know that is accepted by the Co-op Fédérée, among others, as a very important step in ensuring the principle to which, as I say, all parties in fact agree.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

In view of the encouraging answer the minister has just given the House, can he tell us whether he intends to introduce legislation, as announced in the Speech from the Throne, to remedy a situation that is growing more serious every day?

[English]

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, as regards the immediate situation I think most persons, including the producers and the organization to which the hon. member refers, realize that we are not in the difficulty we were in a year or two ago and, indeed, that the Canadian Wheat Board has been offering feed grains to eastern Canadian producers at

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

prices below the prices they could have obtained from foreign sources. They do this in recognition of the importance of the eastern feed grain market to the western producers. Of course the Minister of Agriculture and I will be discussing the particular solutions we propose with the various interested agricultural groups. I do not expect that a bill will be involved in the solution, but that is still a possibility.

**FEED GRAIN—SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL SUBSIDY TO  
ASSIST FARMERS IN ATLANTIC CANADA**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the Minister of Justice has reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to solve the feed grain marketing issue before the end of July and has stated that Ottawa is considering easing Wheat Board control over the interprovincial movement of feed grain and that a bill would not be presented, is the government considering additional subsidies to defray expenses so that farmers in Atlantic Canada may buy feed grains at prices in line with those presently being paid in the west?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, that is in fact the situation at the moment. I think there is a good deal of misunderstanding in different regions of the country about the great cost involved in transportation, handling and, indeed, in the cost of services like storage or taking the risk of carrying grain. Those differences naturally are reflected in price differences between one region and another. The government will be looking at the whole range of alternatives in an attempt to improve the situation and essentially to ensure that the situation of a year or so ago does not occur again, namely, that distress priced grain is available in one region and only much higher priced grain is available in other regions.

[Translation]

**FEED GRAIN AND MILK—INCLUSION IN AGENDA OF  
NEXT FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE**

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister.

Is it his intention to follow up on the statement made yesterday night by the Quebec Premier that he intends to move that the matter of feed grains and of milk prices be included in the agenda of the next federal-provincial conference?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** It is possible, Mr. Speaker, that the Quebec Premier has made such a statement but I am not aware of it; he will undoubtedly write to me about it. The House knows that when the agenda of these conferences is established, any reasonable request by the provinces is taken into account.

[English]

**FEED GRAIN—SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION  
TO WESTERN PRODUCERS**

**Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat