

Inquiries of the Ministry

the wheat board. Would the minister inform the House whether his department is prepared to pay the expenses incurred by commissioners of oaths when they travel to inspect fields under cover crop, as required under item 10 of bulletin No. 2 issued by the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister without Portfolio?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure as to the urgency of the question asked by the hon. member; certainly there is no urgency apparent to the Chair. If it is a matter that should be looked into immediately, the minister might like to reply to the hon. member's question.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the exact regulations in terms of satisfying the Minister of Agriculture with what is required in regard to the plan are now being put into final form. Therefore I think the question may not in fact arise.

Mr. Gleave: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Might I plead that there is some urgency to these matters since the general intent of this policy is a matter with which the farmers will have to contend. Further, I should like to ask the minister whether, in view of the statement in item four of the same bulletin that there will be on-farm inspection, that farmers may be penalized and that inspection will include the measuring of fields, it is the intention of the ministers to pay people with engineers and surveyors qualifications to perform the function of measuring these fields?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York North.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister has told the House that the regulations are not ready, yet two bulletins have been sent to the farmers setting forth conditions with which the farmers must comply. The minister has now told us that the farmers may not have to pay attention to these regulations. It seems to me to be of importance from the standpoint of the farmers who have received these bulletins to know whether the bulletins are setting out specific instructions that the farmers must follow or whether they can be totally disregarded.

Mr. Speaker: I suggest to the hon. member that that is not a point of order. The hon. member will recognize that I allowed the first question and it was replied to by the minister. Then there was a supplementary which

did not bring a response from the minister. At that point I would think the Chair was justified in passing on to the next questioner.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Then may I put it in the form of a supplementary question to the Minister. Are the provisions and stipulations set forth in bulletin No. 2, particularly No. 10 and No. 4, to be enforced by the government, or will the regulations when tabled make these stipulations and controls no longer applicable?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the actual bulletins in front of me to refer to the particular numbers. The program in broad form, certainly as it affects farmers, has been made clear to individual permit holders through the bulletins that have gone out. There are, of course, some matters of detail to be finalized, but these will in no way affect the kind of decision that the farmer has to make or the way in which he will benefit under the LIFT program.

Mr. Gleave: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is it the intention of the responsible ministers to solve the unemployment problem in Saskatchewan by hiring a flock of inspectors to—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—
ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL OFFICE

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio. Is it a fact that a special office has been established in Regina, Saskatchewan, in connection with operation LIFT, and can the minister indicate what are the actual functions the new office will perform and who will be in charge?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the administration of a significant part of the operation LIFT program is being handled out of the regular PFAA offices in Regina. Inspectors will be operating from that office in Regina. However, I should like to emphasize to hon. members that an inspection system is required in any case in order to make the whole permit book system meaningful and to make it correspond more realistically to farming operations than has been true in many cases in the past.