

were snowed in. This congestion will certainly be removed rapidly as the record flow of grain for export continues.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, it would need to be rapid. May I point out to the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask a question as much as possible.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the statements made in the Miscellaneous Estimates Committee that over half the trackage in western Canada is of such a standard it will not carry the grain hopper cars the Canadian people purchased and gave to the railroads, will the minister hold discussions with the two major railroads and take up with them the matter of improving the condition of the railway tracks in western Canada?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter which has already been discussed with the railways. Of course, the question of whether certain trackage could carry hopper cars was not very relevant until we began to acquire this kind of equipment. The tracks that can carry hopper cars are numerous enough to make full use of all cars acquired to date. The railways appreciate that as this equipment of the future is used more and more there are certain stretches of track that must be brought up to standard, and we are pressing them for action on that.

ANALYSIS BY WHEAT BOARD OF QUESTIONNAIRE ON HOLDINGS SENT TO PRODUCERS—SALES ACTIVITY

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether the Wheat Board has yet analysed the questionnaire sent to 170,000 farmers to find out whether the results indicate some disparity between the estimates made and the actual holdings of grain on farms?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): The Wheat Board has been analysing the returns as they flow in. Something like half of the returns had been received as long ago as two weeks. The Wheat Board does intend to retain as confidential the information in these returns. A number of farmers made this very express condition in respect of supplying information. Therefore the board does not intend to reveal the facts which are compiling but they will certainly make use of them for their own marketing guidance.

Mr. Korchinski: May I ask the minister whether as a result of the information received so far the Wheat Board is actively bidding on weekly tenders or whether, in view of the fact Commissioner Gibbins stated to the Palliser wheat growers that wheat stocks will be depleted by October, depending on deliveries by the farmers, the Wheat Board rather than seeking markets is twiddling its thumbs until October?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether a question asked in those terms is in order.

[Later:]

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister might be permitted to reply to my serious question con-

cerning whether the Wheat Board is actually seeking new markets or is just bidding its time.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to tell the hon. member that the Wheat Board is continuing very actively in the selling business on world markets, and that we do have adequate supplies to achieve a record for the movement of grain into export this year and to start next year with record volumes again.

PROVISION OF RAILWAY CARS TO POINTS WITH LARGE SUPPLIES OF NON-BOARD GRAINS

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Since the congestion at a number of points is due to very large supplies of non-board grains such as rye, flax and rapeseed which have accumulated because of the administration of the quotas by the Canadian Wheat Board, will the minister take such action as is necessary to provide additional railway cars to those points?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board through the block shipping system is placing the cars where the required grain can be obtained, with special attention to those areas where there is congestion. I drew this matter specifically to their attention. They agreed they would do everything possible within the block system to put the cars where they are needed. I do not agree with the hon. member's premise that it is non-board grains rather than board grains which are involved at this time.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL OF PROJECTS

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Could he tell the House whether he is aware of the fact that, prior to the approval of a local initiatives project in Shefford, the municipal council or the individuals who are making an application must first obtain the blessings of the Liberal organization of the town or municipality?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that information. If the hon. member will give me the details I will look into it forthwith.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister and I thank him for his good intentions.

Is the minister ready to intervene with the municipal authorities involved to ensure that these problems will not be repeated and important projects will not be blocked because of local political manoeuvring?