

Oral Questions

● (1452)

[English]

GRAIN

DATE AND AMOUNT OF STABILIZATION PAYMENT

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. When there will be a payout under the grain stabilization act and how much will it be?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the member of the cabinet who administers the payout under the grain stabilization act is the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, and following discussions I have had with him no decision has yet been made at this time.

Mr. Malone: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister tell us whether or not the formula has been calculated yet?

Mr. Whelan: I am not in a position to say, sir.

WHEAT—POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE IN DOMESTIC PRICE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Given the fact that farm income has dropped very dramatically, particularly in the grains industry, given the fact that under the Two-Price Wheat Act there is provision for an annual escalation in the price of domestic wheat used for human consumption commensurate with the increase in the cost of production, and given the fact that Supplementary Estimates A have revealed a slashing of some \$35 million under the provisions of the Two-Price Wheat Act, would the minister advise the House why the government is so reluctant to live within the spirit and intent of the Two-Price Wheat Act, and does this reduction of \$35 million mean that we cannot anticipate an upward adjustment in the minimum price under the provisions of the Two-Price Wheat Act?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this matter is still very much under discussion.

Mr. Mazankowski: A supplementary question. These discussions have been going on since last July. I wonder whether the minister would tell the House when these discussions will be concluded?

Mr. Whelan: I hope by Christmas, Mr. Speaker.

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MULTICULTURALISM

DATE WHEN MINISTER WILL IMPLEMENT PROMISES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) who has been running up and down the country

[Mr. Lessard.]

indicating to the 30 per cent of the Canadian population who are minorities that this government has looked after the Anglophones, is now looking after the Francophones, and that the 30 per cent have been woefully neglected and he is going to see to it that some recognition is given to their talents so they will be brought into the public service. Would the minister indicate to the House when he is going to be in a position to give a definitive statement regarding his intentions in this matter, or is this window dressing just prior to the election?

Hon. Norman A. Cafik (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member can be assured that all actions taken under my portfolio will be more than window dressing. We are deeply concerned about the ethno-cultural communities of this country and are equally concerned, as is the hon. member, with seeing that all Canadians have equal opportunity to work and participate in the mainstream of Canadian life at all times.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have heard that statement for the past three or four months. My question to the minister—I hope he has also kept his colleague the President of the Treasury Board involved in this respect—is: When is the minister going to stand up in this House and give a definitive statement respecting how he is going to implement this very laudable project of his? That is all I want to know.

Mr. Cafik: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that hon. members are that much interested in the activities of my portfolio. I will give consideration to coming forward with a statement on motions in due course.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for New Westminster.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, this is a very important matter and I think I should be allowed one supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for New Westminster.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DISPUTE WITH B.C. TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES—POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SETTLE

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and it concerns the telephone strike in the province of British Columbia. Since 1972 this House has introduced dispute settlement legislation in a number of abrasive disputes, five of which affected workers on the coast of British Columbia. In view of the fact that the company has now rejected the intervention of the Minister of Labour in this increasingly bitter dispute, and in view of the fact that labour union has now accepted the conciliation report of Dr. Noel Hall, is the Minister of Labour intending to introduce legislation in the House in the near future based on the Noel Hall report?