

Oral Questions

that housing, which I would hope would allow the housing association to maintain its moratorium on rent increases. There are discussions going on between CMHC and the association, all of which are subject to the approval of the Toronto Housing Corporation, but I would hope that would be the result.

Mr. Grier: Can the minister assure the House that pending the outcome of the present discussions no rent increases will be proceeded with?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the rent, of course, is charged and levied by the association. I hope that my offer to them will enable them to maintain the moratorium on any rent increases.

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HARBOURS

PROPOSED DEEP WATER PORT AT LORNEVILLE, NEW BRUNSWICK—REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF PROJECT BY PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Minister of Public Works has expressed support for the development of all potential Atlantic deep-water ports, and particularly for the development of Lorneville, and as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion has agreed that his department will assist in such development, would the Prime Minister now state that he will fully support the position of these two cabinet ministers and their policies in this regard, and will he also state that he will use the full force of his office to see that their policies are expedited?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can state that quite unequivocally. It is the policy of the government, in fact of all ministers.

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FISHERIES

ALLEGED DIRECTIVE TO NANAIMO RESEARCH STATION NOT TO COMMENT ON LOBSTER PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of the Environment in connection with the controversial lobster program at Nanaimo. Can the minister indicate the basis of the directive received at the Nanaimo Research Station, and, if he is not aware of it, cause it to be investigated, stipulating that in order to protect the minister from unwarranted badgering in the House of Commons any comments to the press, Members of Parliament and the general public should be released through the office of the director?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, I do not recall any unwarranted badgering in the House of Commons.

[Mr. Basford.]

Mr. Lundrigan: May I ask the minister if he would cause to be investigated this very serious directive which has been received at the Nanaimo Research Station?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, this subject was covered, I know at considerable length, in the relevant committee of the House a few weeks ago. I will be glad to speak to the subject if it comes up again in that committee.

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GRAIN

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF INCREASE IN INITIAL PRICE—POSSIBLE WITHHOLDING OF GRAIN BY FARMERS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Since the Canadian Wheat Board has raised its export price for wheat by some 20 cents a bushel at the eastern ports and 10 cents a bushel at the western ports, and since wheat prices have strengthened by approximately \$1.25 during the past year, is the Board at this time giving any consideration to increasing the initial price paid to western farmers for the wheat they are delivering this crop year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker. I do not know of such consideration. I think many farmers would be rather more upset than otherwise by an increase in the current year, and of course the general practice is to allow for a fairly large final payment six or eight months after the pool period is closed. Further, prices are a very volatile matter. There was some decline today. That alone justifies the policy of a large final payment.

Mr. Speaker: I think I should bring to the attention of hon. members that we are coming to the end of the question period and we should have as few supplementaries as possible in order to allow other members to ask at least one question each.

Mr. Murta: In view of the fact that some farmers may hold back marketings until after August 1 in expectation of higher initial prices for the 1973-74 crop year, would this not give grounds for considering a possible increase in the initial price for the coming year?

Mr. Lang: No. Farmers know in fact that the total amount of money is the important figure and not the initial price. The flow of wheat into the system is still adequate to meet the Wheat Board's commitments.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

REPRESENTATIONS BY MINISTER TO MANITOBA GOVERNMENT CONCERNING HYDRO PROJECTS

Mr. Keith Taylor (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the repeated requests from Manitoban Indians for assistance in dealing with the