

*Motions for Papers***MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

* * *

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if Question No. 391 could be made an Order for Return, the return would be tabled immediately.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that Question No. 391 be deemed to have been made an Order for Return?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

EXPORT OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

Question No. 391—**Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):**

For each crop year from 1980-81 to 1986-87, have Canadian grains and oilseeds been exported via (a) St. Lawrence Seaway ports to Pacific rim countries (b) St. Lawrence Seaway ports to European or Mediterranean markets (c) St. Lawrence Seaway ports to other markets (d) West Coast ports to Pacific Rim markets (e) West Coast ports to European or Mediterranean markets (f) West Coast ports to other markets and, if so, for each variety (i) in what quantities (ii) at what average price?

Return tabled.

[English]

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I bring to the attention of the Minister of State who undoubtedly knows that a question that I have had on the Order Paper since March 15 still remains unanswered to this day. I know that the Minister himself usually does his best to ensure that answers are provided. I am just wondering if I could get a commitment from the Minister that he will do his best this afternoon to contact the proper officials so that tomorrow prior to adjournment the answer to a difficult question, granted, but a question which has been on the Order Paper for two and a half months longer than our rules provide, is answered in a manner consistent with the rules of this House.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the point of order if I may in order to assist my hon. friend and other Members of the House who may wish to pose a question which

I am not for a minute suggesting was not a forthright question to which the Hon. Member wanted an answer. The problem is in the wording of the question.

When my hon. friend asks—and I have not got the exact wording although I think I am paraphrasing it properly—“has the Government or any Crown corporation, or any agency”—it is very difficult. A questionnaire then has to go out to all government Ministries, all Crown corporations and all Departments. Until we get all of the answers back it is impossible to answer my hon. friend's question.

● (1520)

If the next time he poses a question which has some specificity to it in that he is after a gentleman who worked for the Ministry of Communications and/or a Crown corporation, it would be of a great deal of assistance to the Ministry, because there is a lot of time and effort involved in answering those questions, if it could be spelled out exactly which Crown corporations or Ministries he was referring to. That type of answer is much easier to obtain.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member on a point of order.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps there is a compromise which would be available, if the Minister would be willing to give an indication, perhaps privately later, if he thinks he has an answer from 80 or 90 per cent of those agencies that could be tabled, and the House could agree to have a tabling of that answer, and then consider it a complete answer at that point, if that were possible. Perhaps there could be private discussions later and tomorrow at the appropriate time whatever information is available could then be deposited, and perhaps we could close that issue which I have raised in the House approximately 10 or 12 times.

Mr. Speaker: I will leave it with the Member and the Minister of State.

* * *

POINT OF ORDER

WITHDRAWAL OF COMMENT DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, you may recall during Question Period I was seeking some answers to a question posed to the Hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan). Although I felt the answers might have been a little confusing, I used the phrase that he was deliberately misleading the House.

Upon reflection and respect for your chair and your request, Mr. Speaker, and the traditions and the history of this House, I would like to withdraw the use of that term in reference to the comments of the Minister of the Environment.