

Inquiries of the Ministry

who made the suggestion in the first place, whether it came from Canada or some other country. But it is certain that this and all manner of other proposals are being looked at by the participating countries.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister tell us whether the Canadian government has received an official indication that the International Monetary Fund is seeking a change in the valuation of international currencies which would result in Canada's dollar being pegged at about \$1.03 U.S.? If that is the case, what is the government's view with regard to this general reorganization?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there has been no official submission made to the Canadian government, in the terms of the question, to up-value the Canadian dollar to \$1.03 U.S. or \$1.05 U.S., or whatever it is.

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GRAIN**INQUIRY AS TO MAKING OF PAYMENTS TO WHEAT BOARD UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the Canadian Wheat Board has invoiced the Minister of Finance for amounts due under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act since August 1, 1970, and since there has been considerable debate about the failure of the minister to make these payments, have the payments for the 1970-71 or current crop year now been made to the Canadian Wheat Board from the consolidated revenue fund?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I cannot at this time reopen the debate of last Thursday, but an explanation was given for that by the minister responsible for the Wheat Board.

Mr. Baldwin: It was highly unsatisfactory.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, I was not asking for an explanation. I simply want to ask the Prime Minister again if there has been any change in policy or whether these payments have now been made to the Canadian Wheat Board in light of the debates which have taken place?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, those payments have not been made but, as indicated in the House by the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, they will be in some short length of time if the bill before the House is not passed, and the farmers will be receiving only \$60 million instead of \$100 million.

Mr. Baldwin: That's blackmail.

WITHHOLDING BY GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT—OBJECTIONS BY WESTERN PREMIERS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I think the amount is \$90 million. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether there have

[Mr. Trudeau.]

been any objections from the western premiers or members of the government in reference to the alleged disobeying of the law and failure of this government to pay to the Canadian Wheat Board the money in question that is owing for storage?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the Minister of Agriculture that he knows of no such representations and I must say that, for my part, I have no knowledge of such representations.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF STABILIZATION BILL PENDING MEETING WITH PRAIRIE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as government House leader. In view of the meeting held last week by the three prairie Ministers of Agriculture, is the minister contemplating withholding further consideration of Bill C-244 until after the three ministers have met with the minister in charge of the Wheat Board this Friday in order to discuss what they have referred to as a most contentious bill?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I have made no decision, nor was I aware of the projected meeting on Friday with these ministers. The bill will be brought forward as soon as we can get it forward conveniently for hon. members.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, could I ask a supplementary question. I wonder if the government House leader has conveyed to the Prime Minister the objections raised by the hon. member for Vegreville and the Ministers of Agriculture of the Prairie provinces not only to the bill but to the fact that the law has been disobeyed in that these moneys have not been paid?

An hon. Member: Whisper it in his ear.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Don't send him a telegram.

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● (2:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**MONTMAGNY, QUE.—DESIGNATION AS SPECIAL AREA**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Will new areas in Quebec be designated as special areas within a few months? If so, will the town of Montmagny and its suburbs be included among those new special areas?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we all know that the present special areas will remain designated till June 1972. We are now negotiating with the province and it is really too soon