

Oral Questions

Branch is co-operating in this matter with the Food Prices Review Board which is conducting a similar inquiry?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will look at my remarks in the House on Monday night, he will see that I said this inquiry is being carried out under section 47 of the act and the results will be presented to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

Mr. McGrath: I asked the minister if the results of the inquiry, in view of their national importance, would be made public and, further, if the Combines Investigation Branch in the course of its inquiry is co-operating with the Food Prices Review Board which is conducting a similar inquiry?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, I could be wrong but I do not think the work of the Food Prices Review Board, to which the hon. member has referred, is similar. I think the latter is looking at certain pricing practices in retail food stores, whereas the inquiry of the Combines Investigation Branch is much wider and with respect to the food manufacturing industry. On the other part of the question, I will have to check the exact provisions of the law with respect to the work of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. I stand to be corrected but I believe that once the report is presented to the commission it is open to it to hold public hearings on the report. However, I will check into that and make sure my information is correct.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Provencher.

Mr. Epp: In the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member, but I indicated to the House a moment ago that we had gone beyond the time allotted for the question period. I thought the hon. member was rising on a point of order. I would not want to disappoint him so perhaps he might ask the question quickly. The Chair will recognize the hon. member and then call orders of the day.

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TRANSPORT**NEED FOR ADDITIONAL GRAIN CARS TO CLEAR
BACKLOG—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): I should like to address my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport. In view of the present situation with harvesting in western Canada and the need for many western farmers to stockpile grain outside because of the backlog and the lack of grain cars, has the department undertaken any discussions with Canadian National and Canadian Pacific to make sure that this backlog will be taken care of shortly, and what is the supply of grain cars coming from Thunder Bay?

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this has been one of the main concerns of the minister, but I will still bring the question to his attention on Monday.

[Mr. McGrath.]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. The hon. member for Skeena on a point of order.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, the point of order I should like to raise at this time is occasioned by the fact that this may well be the last day before the recess and the resumption in mid-October and, therefore, the last day before the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) leaves on his visit to the Peoples Republic of China.

There is a very urgent and important question that I think should be posed to the Prime Minister prior to his departure that has not been permitted because there has been a succession of supplementary questions, as Your Honour has mentioned.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there is consent to allow the hon. member to ask his question it could be done, but that is not a point of order. I have indicated to the House on many occasions that when we have called orders of the day it is irregular to rise and seek to ask supplementaries or further questions by way of a point of order.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, if there is consent I am sure that there are many—

Mr. Speaker: Apparently there is not. Orders of the day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNTIL OCTOBER 15, 1973

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice) moved:

That, when the House adjourns this day, it shall stand adjourned until October 15, 1973, provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Mr. Speaker, after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, Mr. Speaker may give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Mr. Speaker being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in his stead for all purposes of this order.

● (1210)

[English]

He said: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this motion is to allow the House to resume the adjournment which was begun on July 27, and which had lasted only for a short period when the House was summoned back to deal with some important measures. The House took up the problem of the rail strike, which was causing much difficulty in the country, and enacted the legislation required to end the strike and to make sure that the problems between the men and their employers could be solved in an orderly