

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

start in terms of the opening of navigation. I was speaking to Mr. Hope, co-ordinator of the block system, about this yesterday. A number of steps have been taken to ensure that a new schedule will effectively allow delivery of the grain required.

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** May I address a related question to the Minister without Portfolio. In view of the fact that the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool terminals at Thunder Bay unloaded an average of 250 cars a day between April 29 and May 4, though they have a capacity to unload 650 cars, can the minister advise what action, if any, is being taken to improve the rate of unloading at these pool terminals? It is reported that unless the number of cars unloaded can be increased in the coming weeks, operations will have to be curtailed.

**Mr. Lang:** Most of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool terminals at Thunder Bay have had more cars on track than they have been capable of unloading, the only exception being the large No. 7 terminal where a shortage of cars developed recently. The co-ordinator of the block system and the director of operations at Thunder Bay have been taking steps to see that more cars are made available to the Saskatchewan pool.

**Mr. Benjamin:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that under the block system the railways at the very best provide cars on a once a week basis on their branch lines, and in view of the fact that the minister and the board were recently supplied with a list of 100 shipping points which would not be able to take delivery of a four-bushel quota unless additional cars were allocated and scheduled for delivery, may I ask the minister what steps have been taken in regard to these specific points?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the specific problem of seeing that cars are available for those points is in fact under consideration.

[Translation]

**PRICES AND INCOMES COMMISSION**

INQUIRY RESPECTING STATEMENT BY  
CHAIRMAN

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Can he tell the House whether the chairman of the Commission on prices and incomes, Mr. Young, was expressing the view of the Canadian government when he told the

Canadian Manufacturers Association that there were only two means of fighting inflation, restrictions on salary increases and unemployment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I must interrupt the hon. member. The question in its present form is out of order.

**FLOODS**

## QUEBEC—ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE AFFECTED

**Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Berthier):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the damage caused by the sudden rising of the water in the electoral district of Berthier, and especially at Saint-Michel des Saints, will reach several million dollars, would the Prime Minister consider designating this region as a disaster area, in order to provide assistance to hundreds of families who have suffered heavy material damages?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the government has already established a policy concerning damage due to floods. However, I thank the hon. member for bringing this matter to my attention. If local authorities want to make representations to the government, we will see to what extent we can provide help within the framework of the established policy.

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Prime Minister to have some concern too for the region of the beautiful riding of Joliette affected by the disaster?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry to hear that this beautiful riding has also suffered damage. I refer the hon. member to the answer I have just made to the hon. member for Berthier.

[English]

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has a decision been taken to change the make-up of the Consumers' Advisory Council by reducing the membership on the council, in view of criticism that was levelled at the council by the Consumers' Association of Canada yesterday?