

Inquiries of the Ministry

April, will he place high on the agenda the suggestion that the United States co-operate fully with Canada and other countries in re-establishing the international wheat agreement that was allowed to collapse in 1967?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will certainly take that into consideration, Mr. Speaker. When I met President Nixon in Washington for the first time that item was high on the agenda and I shall consider it again this time. But as I said to the House yesterday, the agenda has not yet been finally agreed to by the two countries.

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TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE TO MUNICIPALITIES FROM RAILWAY GRADE CROSSING FUND**

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the large number of municipal projects involving railroad grade crossings that are being held up for lack of funds, would the minister consider increasing the ceiling on assistance to municipalities through the railroad grade crossing fund?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon. member is equipped with e.s.p., but I can tell him that I had a lengthy meeting on this subject this morning in preparation for the visit next week of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. I can say that in principle the answer is yes. We are trying to find a formula and will continue consulting with the municipalities as to what is the best one.

RAILWAY LINE RELOCATION IN URBAN CENTRES—POSSIBLE NEW POLICY

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Transport whether his considerations involve the early announcement of a new policy on assistance for rail line relocations in many urban centres across Canada?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I spent a good part of an hour talking about Regina this morning, and I am sure that is the area in which the hon. member is most interested. This is one of the problems we are seeking to solve—the difference between a straight grade crossing and a realignment program.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**DISPUTE WITH NABET—POSITION OF NEGOTIATIONS—GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR SETTLEMENT**

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Can he inform the House whether any progress was

[Mr. Southam.]

made in the recent discussions between the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and NABET?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): The only thing I can tell the House, Mr. Speaker, is that the meeting between the union officials and those of the CBC took place yesterday. I was able to talk with the CBC directors, for whom the results of that meeting were good and permitted to foresee an improvement in the situation.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: In view of the seriousness of the matter, would the Secretary of State advise whether the government has any specific proposal that it is prepared to present in order to effect an immediate settlement of this very serious dispute?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. member repeat his question? I missed three words and I am not sure that I did get it.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: Just briefly, Mr. Speaker, I was inquiring whether, in view of the seriousness of the matter, and since we all want an early settlement, the government has any specific proposal that it is prepared to present which will effect an immediate settlement of this matter.

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I find that question astonishing. Indeed the opposition, and it means well I suppose, is always raising objections, always suspecting us of interfering in negotiations between Crown agencies, and I am surprised—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. There is obviously a debate now between the hon. minister and the hon. member.

• (1500)

[English]

Is the hon. member rising to ask a supplementary? We have just about reached the end of the question period but perhaps he might be allowed to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I am not rising on a supplementary but on a point of order. There have been successive questions regarding the various issues in contention and under negotiation, but the government seems to want to keep them out of the House and in darkness. On behalf of the people of Canada it is our right as an opposition to pursue this question in order to ascertain whether the government is moving to create a climate of positive action so this dispute can be settled.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether that is a point of order. I would think the hon. member is debating the matter in the same way that the minister was. I think the minister was out of order and the hon. member is also out of order.

Mr. Horner: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has already ruled that there is no point of order.