

the minister tell the House at the earliest moment possible what emergency steps are being taken by the government to assist the Canadian grain industry in view of this major setback?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): As I have said before, it is our hope that orderly marketing and a measure of orderly pricing in the international wheat market will remain. The minimum under the International Grains Arrangement which is still in effect has not been maintained in practice but a certain amount of order has been established, notwithstanding. This measure of co-operation is expected to continue so there has been no dramatic change as a result of the failure to reach a further agreement.

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Are we to assume from the minister's answer that negotiations are going forward without any diminution of staff or any lessening of the possibility of reaching a full agreement?

Mr. Lang: I believe the statement I made to the House several days ago put the situation quite clearly. I said that some discussions are continuing toward a certain conclusion at this stage, that the question of a more firm agreement with firm pricing provisions would be watched carefully, so that when it seemed appropriate to enter upon fresh discussions they would be begun again.

WHEAT—SUGGESTED USE AS BUILDING INSULATION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Is the government considering an alternative use for wheat as suggested recently by the scientific community, that is, its use as a building material, as an insulator.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I am not sure that this particular suggestion has been brought to our attention. I was a little surprised myself at the suggestion that a cubic foot of this insulating material could be produced for eight cents when a cubic foot of wheat is worth a good deal more than that. But I will be glad to look into the matter further.

INQUIRY AS TO REPEAL OF TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Having regard to the indication in the estimates this afternoon that the amount of money available under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act for the current year will be very much reduced, does this signify a firm intention on the part of the government to bring down legislation this session to repeal the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The proposal of the government to do just that had been made clear prior to the tabling of the estimates. The figure referred to by my colleague in the estimates was the figure which would have occurred under the existing law were no change made in it, except for the effect of interest rates and other factors.

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Inquiries of the Ministry

REASON FOR SHIPS HAVING TO WAIT TO BE LOADED AT VANCOUVER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Can the minister now inform the House how many vessels were waiting to load in Vancouver on Monday, or as of today if he would prefer to give that information?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The last report I received from the Wheat Board indicated that nine vessels were loading and that none were waiting. If the situation has changed today, I would be glad to check. At different times there have been four or five vessels waiting for berths but they did not wait very long, and grain is continuing to move at nearly record levels.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

LACK OF PROVISION IN ESTIMATES FOR DISABILITY PENSION AND ALLOWANCE INCREASES

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the fact that there seem to be no estimates in the book he tabled today providing for the 10 and 15 per cent increases in veterans disability pensions and allowances, can the minister tell us how these increases are to be put into effect?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I will take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

STE. SCHOLASTIQUE—ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FRANCOPHONE EMPLOYEES

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the warning issued by the Secretary General of QFL concerning working conditions on the site of the international airport in Ste. Scholastique, and especially in view of the warning that certain unilingual English-speaking managers are treating their Francophone employees with utmost contempt, is the government inquiring or considering an inquiry on this matter?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have been advised of the difficulties to which the hon. member has referred and have asked for an inquiry. Up to this afternoon, I have not received a report.