

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question. In light of the answer given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs on September 9 to the effect that his department has not yet definitely decided whether further representations should be made, in view of further reports from Washington which no doubt have been drawn to his attention, and in view of the fact that time is of the essence since the blast is scheduled for some time next month, could the Prime Minister not assure the House today that he will make such further representations personally to the President of the United States?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The answer is the same, Mr. Speaker. I dealt with this before. The hon. member is quite right in congratulating the government for having made representations at various times to the United States government on this matter. I do not know to what reports from Washington the hon. member is referring. If he can tell me what he is alluding to, and if it gives me additional cause to want to speak to the President, I will certainly consider that very seriously.

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. As the Soviet Union is much closer to Amchitka, the site of the intended underground nuclear blast, has any objection been made by the Soviet Union to this test?

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Since there are a number of very important issues involving Canada and the United States where direct consultation between the Prime Minister and the President might produce constructive results, could the Prime Minister inform the House whether it is pride, prejudice or policy that prevents him from undertaking the 350-mile trip to Washington after his travels round the world—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This exchange has not produced very much up to now. I wonder whether there should be further supplementaries. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate on a further supplementary question and then we will go to another subject.

• (2:30 p.m.)

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister just threatened that he would at least consider making representations to the President of the United States. I wonder whether he could assure the House that, in order to avoid any possibility of such a blast, he will not make personal representations to the President of the United States?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We will attempt to go to another subject. The hon. member for Vancouver East.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE****PUBLICATION OF DETAILS OF WINTER WORKS PROGRAM**

**Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East):** In the absence of the Minister of National Defence, who I understand is in

the United Kingdom, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In order to set speculation at rest, will the Prime Minister tell the House when it is intended to make public the policy and details of the government's plan to proceed with a winter works program by the Department of National Defence of a similar nature to the summer employment project?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of any such plan so I cannot tell when it is intended to make it public.

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**GRAIN****WITHHOLDING BY GOVERNMENT OF PAYMENTS UNDER TEMPORARY WHEAT RESERVES ACT**

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In light of the fact that the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act was not repealed by Parliament prior to July 31, 1971, and as the Canadian Wheat Board, in the normal manner, has presented numerous invoices to the Canadian government for payment under the provisions of that act, can the Prime Minister advise the House why these payments have not been made?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the answer to this question appears in *Hansard* in answer to written questions.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Is it the view of the Prime Minister that the government is within the confines of the law in refusing to observe its obligations under the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will realize that he is asking a member of the government to express a legal opinion. In those terms the question is not in order.

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**AUDITOR GENERAL****ESTABLISHMENT OF SALARY BENCHMARK FOR OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I should like to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board. Before doing so, however, I should think members of the House would like to join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to our Auditor General who has just been elected president of the Eighth International Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions of the World. Can the President of the Treasury Board advise the House what progress has been made toward establishing a benchmark for the employees of the Auditor General's office?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I think there is continuing discussion, and a report has been made to the Public Accounts Committee of which the hon. member is chairman. So far all we have