

Inquiries of the Ministry

Services, when speaking in Lethbridge where he recommended that there be a union of the three prairie provinces under one administration, was announcing government policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that this question was asked before, although I may be wrong. Sometimes I feel that many questions have been asked already but from day to day it is very difficult to keep track of all of them in my memory. However, it is my impression that the question was asked.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LEBANON—POSITION OF GOVERNMENT ON
INVASION BY ISRAELI FORCES

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister in his normal capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the objections of the minister and the repugnance of the Canadian people to the two-month invasion of Cambodia by United States troops, has the minister been able to convey the same feeling to the Israeli foreign minister, who is now in Canada, with regard to his country's four-hour invasion of Lebanon?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had one discussion this morning with the Foreign Minister of Israel, and I hope to have a further meeting tomorrow when I expect we will be discussing this situation.

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—
CONSIDERATION FOR FARMERS WHO
MADE REDUCTIONS LAST YEAR

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio from Saskatchewan. In view of the many representations by farmers who cut down on their wheat acreage last year to have the \$6 per acre apply to them, is the government giving consideration to including them so that they may be in a better position to reduce wheat acreage this year?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to previous answers to the effect that those farmers who adjusted their position last year were considered in the drafting of the program, and the allowances for quotas which

were put into the program in the first place. No further consideration is being given to assistance for them.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker; in view of the fact that it is virtually impossible to obtain employment in western Canada, and since many farmers suffered crop failure for several years, is the government giving any consideration to providing some special assistance for those people who find themselves in such a predicament?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, we are giving very full consideration to many aspects of the agricultural program in the prairie region. The LIFT program was one example of our attempt to deal with a specific part of that problem. I have given many indications in the past few weeks and months on the other work going forward in specific areas.

WHEAT—DEFICIENCY PAYMENT TO COMPEN-
SATE FOR INITIAL PAYMENT DECREASE

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the Wheat Board. In light of the continuing serious cash shortage facing western farmers, has the minister made a decision yet to pay a 20 cent per bushel deficiency payment to compensate those farmers who were forced to take a 20 cent per bushel decrease in initial payments under the government's deferred delivery quota program, and thus suffered discrimination?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, those farmers will, of course, be entitled to share in the current year's pool rather than in the previous year's pool. It will only be when that pool is closed that there will be any way of knowing whether they did suffer that loss through having to make deferred deliveries, but no other action is contemplated at this time. Of course, the \$6,500,000 durum payment going out will be of assistance in some areas.

AGRICULTURE

LICENSING OF CHEMICAL MUTAGENS

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Since 2-4-5T belongs to a group of chemicals known as chemical mutagens, I wonder if the minister could advise the House if his department or the Food and Drug Directorate people are stepping up their activities for the