

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I cannot announce the date, but I can inform the house that satisfactory progress is being made.

TRADE

WHEAT—DIFFERENCE IN PRICES TO JAPAN

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce related to one I asked yesterday. In view of reports that the Japanese are refusing to buy Canadian wheat because they claim there is an adverse price differential between the prices quoted to Japan and those quoted to European markets, will the minister say whether wheat is being offered at different price levels in the European and Japanese markets?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, debate on this subject is normal. It is customary for buyers to believe that the price is too high. It is very seldom that sellers believe that the price is too high. Consultation is taking place between the Canadian Wheat Board and the Japanese buyers in respect of this matter. If the hon. member wants a copy of the price schedule of the Wheat Board I will be glad to give him one.

Mr. Gleave: Is the Wheat Board departing from its standard practice of quoting each day the same prices to customers?

Mr. Pepin: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Is it true that one of the reasons Japan is not placing orders for Canadian wheat is the expected labour trouble in the Vancouver area next month?

Mr. Pepin: There is no strike yet but businesses are usually affected by even the threat of a strike like this one.

COMPETITIVE POSITION OF REDUCED WHEAT BOARD PRICES

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether the recent decrease in the quoted prices of our wheat has put Canada in competition with the United States, particularly in view of the large decrease of 12 cents a bushel they put into effect?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): That is debatable, Mr. Speaker.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the drop in wheat prices during the last week, and in view of the fact that the International Grains Arrangement is regarded by the government as representing a commitment on the part of Canada, is the government now considering implementing a price guarantee to farmers based on the International Grains Arrangement minimum price?

Mr. Pepin: The answer is the same as on previous occasions, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS

QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO SECOND PARK

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Could he tell us whether negotiations have begun with the Quebec government with regard to the establishment of a second national park in the Eastern Townships, more exactly in the Mauricie?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I met with Mr. Loubier yesterday and we discussed the matter of national parks in the province of Quebec in general.

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE WITH THE VATICAN

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. Prime Minister said a few months ago that he was particularly enthusiastic about the idea of establishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican. We have heard no news about this matter during the intervening months. Is it his intention to proceed with this plan, or has it been abandoned.

An hon. Member: Do you want to go, George?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure this is an urgent matter, but perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister might want to reply.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No final decision has been taken as yet in this regard, Mr. Speaker.