

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Mackasey: I did not say that, Mr. Speaker. I said that appropriate legislation in this field is particularly difficult because of the international connotations of the Dunlop decision.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. Does the government of the right hon. gentleman intend to follow the example of its friends in Quebec and print currency that is partly blank to show the effects of inflation?

GRAIN**WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—EXTENSION OF HARVEST DEADLINE**

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture relating to the LIFT program. Inasmuch as many farmers in the north central and northern parts of the prairies have indicated they will be unable to take advantage of the provisions of the LIFT program as it relates to the planting of nurse or cover crops because of the lateness of the planting season and the July 15 harvest deadline, can the minister say whether any consideration is being given to extending the harvest deadline to meet the climatic realities of these areas?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the date of July 15 when cover crops would have to be removed or when any farmer would be permitted to seed a cover crop, of course, is about the middle of the summer for all regions. I think we should dispel any misunderstanding about the purpose of a cover crop. It is not primarily designed for the purpose of growing a crop of any great value but to prevent soil erosion in those areas where there is a high risk of soil erosion from large areas of summerfallow.

Mr. Mazankowski: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister answer my question? I asked whether any consideration is being given to the considerable representations being made by the farmers in the northern part of the prairies for the extension of this deadline.

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will examine the answer I gave he will notice that the answer to his question is very clear and specific in that respect.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

WHEAT—NUMBER OF FARMERS WHO WILL QUALIFY FOR PAYMENTS UNDER ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Agriculture indicate if he has made an assessment to determine what percentage of western farmers will, in fact, benefit from the LIFT program?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Of course, Mr. Speaker, all farmers in western Canada will benefit because if the LIFT program is successful it will substantially strengthen our bargaining position in the international market.

Mr. Yewchuk: I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I was not referring to the generalities of the program. I wondered whether or not the minister could possibly tell me what number of people will qualify for cash payments under this program?

Mr. Olson: All farmers who were farming in 1969 and who had a permit book have this offer open to them and, therefore, they can benefit if they choose to do so. In respect of the other part of the question concerning how many farmers will in fact apply for the wheat acreage reduction benefit, this of course will not be known until seeding is completed in western Canada. We do not expect all the applications to be in until farmers have finally decided what pattern their seeding and summerfallow operations will take.

AGRICULTURE**USE OF 2-4-5T HERBICIDE**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture a direct question. It has to do with the use of the weed chemical 2-4-5T and it is further to his answer to my question on April 21 that the use of this herbicide is continuing to be reviewed. In view of the fact that the main application of this type of chemical will commence in some three weeks time, can the minister inform the House if it is his intention to ban the use of this chemical or is the matter still under review?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have indeed restricted the use of this herbicide, and several pesticides, in respect of preparation which may be licensed. It may be that we will further restrict the use of 2-4-5T. I would draw to the hon. member's attention, however, that there has been no residue of this chemical found in any