

million bushels of grain that cannot be conditioned at terminal facilities? I ask this question in the light of the very disquieting statements made last evening by the chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board which have been discussed here this afternoon.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the terminal facilities do not come under the responsibility of the department of which I am the acting minister. However, this matter is, of course, being given active and serious consideration.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Stanfield: Am I to understand from the statement made by the Minister without Portfolio that the government has in fact no proposals to put forward with regard to measures to assist in the drying of the damp grain which is in danger of being destroyed?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): We have, over a long period of time, been assessing the situation—

An hon. Member: Some three months now.

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt):—and in looking back at the debates in the past, one will find that the problems being considered today are not exactly the problems that existed a month ago since the weather has allowed a good deal of harvesting to take place. So it is well to look at these things. The chairman of the transportation commission in his recent statement indicated that another questionnaire based on post-harvesting conditions has now been prepared and was put in the hands of the elevator operators on November 22. We expect to have the results at a very early date. This will no doubt be of great assistance in helping us assess the whole situation.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister say whether the wheat board or the government is conducting any survey of the location of dryers in order to ascertain whether these facilities are in a position to be of maximum use in connection with grain drying, and has the government or the wheat board given any consideration to facilitating the importation of dryers from the United States or from other sources?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): As I indicated at the beginning in my first answer, these are questions largely for the Minister

Inquiries of the Ministry

of Agriculture who is not here today. I am sure he would be glad to provide detailed information on this matter when he returns from Europe.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the acting minister of national revenue whether the government has given any consideration to the removal, by agreement with the United States, of tariffs on the admission of dryers into Canada or, if this cannot be arranged, would the government be prepared to pay the duty on the necessary dryers so that farmers in western Canada would be able to secure them?

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take that up with the officials of the department and to make to the cabinet such recommendations as seem necessary.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that part of the problem is due to the shortage of box cars, would the minister discuss this matter with the railways, if he has not done so already, and promise western farmers a flow of box cars so that damp and other grain can be moved?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take this up with the railways.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have there been any discussions to date with reference to this serious matter or are they to take place only now?

Mr. Hellyer: Yes, there have been discussions, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Woolliams: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister please take the house into his confidence and tell us what has been the result of those discussions with the Canadian railways?

Mr. Hellyer: At an early date, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The west is forgotten.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Today both the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Agriculture are away. We have witnessed the arrogance of the Minister of