

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the appointment has not yet been made. The study is being undertaken because we are not certain we have done everything that can be done; that is to say, we collectively, the railways, the elevator companies, the Wheat Board and all the rest, in order to get the maximum out of the equipment we have. We have done a great deal. We have the bloc shipping system, co-ordinators at the terminals, some improvements in the way cars are handled by the railways, and I could go on to many more things.

There are some very difficult constrictions in the system, such as union relationships at the terminal and the relationship among the elevator operators and their managers with regard to hours of work. There are some in the way the railways handle their cars and give them priority. It is our intention to again study these fundamental problems, with the optimistic view that we will not stop at the first objection from one or another of the parties involved that it is difficult to accomplish a particular end. We will go beyond that and look with imagination at how that goal can be accomplished so that we can get perhaps 40 per cent more use out of all the hopper cars that we are acquiring.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY WHETHER NAVAL VESSELS REPAIR PROGRAM WILL BE ACCELERATED

Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. I would like first to thank him for having responded to the requests made by hon. members in anticipating the program for repair and assistance to the shipbuilding industry which is aimed at improving the situation which faces shipbuilding at the present time. I would like to know whether his department has secured the necessary funds, that is \$2 million, following tenders which have been received for the building of the *Protector* for which the Davie Shipbuilding had made the lowest bid at \$9 million.

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, we are looking at this matter very carefully. We hope to be able to find the funds to make this work possible in the St. Lawrence shipyards as quickly as possible.

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AGRICULTURE

PLANT BREEDERS' RIGHTS LEGISLATION

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. It relates to the progress or, perhaps more accurately, the lack of progress with regard to the plant breeders' rights legislation. The plant breeders

require this legislation: they have been asking for it for months and the government has promised it for months. I simply ask the minister when we can expect to see the legislation.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I doubt very much whether the legislation will be brought in before the end of this month. It depends on how long the House sits. If it is not brought in at this time, it will be given a priority position in the early fall.

Mr. Wise: I am disappointed by the minister's response and I am certain the plant breeders will share my view. Can we get an assurance from the minister that this legislation will not be like the Canadian meat import law and the stabilization payment to beef producers—promised and never delivered? These kinds of promises we can do without.

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, our plant breeders have been without this kind of legislation since plant breeding began in Canada. If they do get it, it will be something they have never had before.

GRANTS UNDER GRAIN ELEVATOR PROGRAM

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Agriculture. It has to do with the elevator program which was announced jointly by the Minister of Agriculture and the minister responsible for the Wheat Board, about nine months ago. I understand Treasury Board has given approval to it in the last two weeks. When may announcements be expected with regard to individual grants? I am particularly interested in the one in the south part of Hastings.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the hon. member is concerned about the one in this area. I signed a press release on this and outlined that the regulations would be announced very shortly for people such as the hon. member is talking about who want to take advantage of the program. People in the feed deficient areas of eastern Ontario, western Quebec and eastern Canada, will be able to take advantage of this program. We hope to have the regulations by the end of this week or the first part of next week so they will know how to apply.

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INDUSTRY

SALE OF HALIFAX SHIPYARD

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister of industry, trade and tourism or the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can he report any progress as far as the Halifax shipyard is concerned? He must have been made aware by his confreres in the province of Nova Scotia that many of the shipyard workers are running out of unemployment insurance. Will there be a buyer for the shipyard? If not, why does the government not take it over and run it?