

## CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF HALL  
COMMISSION

**Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Yesterday the minister said he was setting new records. However, he has established a few records which he did not mention. In view of record demurrage charges, 16 ships waiting in Vancouver today, record export backlog, 35 million bushels behind, record farm debt, up again today, record discrepancy between selling price and farmers' price at \$2 a bushel, record outpouring of—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Will the hon. member put his question.

**Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** When does the minister intend to implement those sections of the Hall commission report which are designed to straighten out the transportation mess in our western grain industry?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I find it extraordinary that a member of the Conservative party can say that, when a colleague of his, a Conservative from New Brunswick, in the debate the other day said that we in this government are doing everything in transportation for the west. I do not know how the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek can ride right over the fact that this government just in the last month approved \$600 million toward a rail rehabilitation program. We have approved the expansion of Prince Rupert. In fact, we are moving toward a record volume of wheat exports and grain exports. We are likely to move 850 million bushels of grain this year. In the Diefenbaker years, we scarcely passed 400 million bushels.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, it is generally conceded in western Canada that our grain industry is in the hands of an economic virgin. Yesterday the Alberta Wheat Pool was unable to unload a single bushel of grain; they did not have any. Last weekend only two terminals in Vancouver worked. Will the minister look at the transportation section of the Wheat Board with a view to somehow streamlining it?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, once again, I am glad the hon. member referred to the fact that these are operational matters which are in the hands of the Canadian Wheat Board. Unlike the hon. member, the Canadian Wheat Board has the full and almost complete support of farmers right across the prairies. I know it does not have the support of the Conservative party, as evidenced just now by this speaker and when the Leader of the Opposition indicated some time ago that he was going to break down the export monopoly of the Canadian Wheat Board. That is a losing policy all across the west.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

## FINANCE

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL NEGOTIATE SALES TAX  
WITH QUEBEC

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

According to a report issued by the office of the Minister of Commerce here in Ottawa, if the federal government were to adopt the proposals of the Quebec minister of finance even the other provinces might benefit from it; according to the same report, of the 36,000 jobs lost in Canada in the manufacturing industry in the last 18 months, 30,000 were lost in the province of Quebec in the traditional sectors such as clothing, footwear, furniture and others. As those factors—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. If the hon. member has a question to put, would he kindly put it immediately?

**Mr. Grafftey:** In view of those factors, is the right hon. Prime Minister now willing to negotiate with the province of Quebec in a spirit of flexibility as the government did with Saskatchewan and British Columbia with a view to accepting Mr. Parizeau's proposals?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, on the one hand the hon. member speaks of negotiating and on the other of accepting. Clearly, we are favourable to having negotiations. To wit, the federal Minister of Finance negotiated for three weeks with his provincial counterparts, including Mr. Parizeau. It so happens that Mr. Parizeau was unable to give an answer.

So, we did negotiate, and they could not give us a reply. As pointed out by Mr. Chrétien, our finance minister, now that the game is over Mr. Parizeau comes out on the ice and wants to score points. We find that a strange way of negotiating. Still, despite that we have continued to try and find a solution, for the objective of the government is very clear: we want to make sure the Quebec government is not penalized through the fault of that particular government; we have always stated clearly that the money involved would go to Quebecers one way or another. The problems lies with whether Mr. Parizeau can negotiate as we did with him, that is, in good faith, and as we did with all the other provinces.

**Mr. Grafftey:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Considering that the sales tax remains a matter of provincial jurisdiction and that last week the entire opposition in the National Assembly, which includes the Liberal party, supported Mr. Parizeau's proposal, are you accusing those people at the provincial level of encouraging the separatist option, much as you accused us in the opposition here in Ottawa last week?