

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Southam: I have a supplementary question. Can the minister say how effectively this committee is working to resolve the very difficult situation which exists at the port?

Mr. Olson: That would be a matter of opinion, and we usually deal only with facts.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the one asked by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain. In the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce may I ask the Minister of Agriculture whether any investigation is being made into the feasibility of diverting at least some of the ships now waiting at Vancouver to the ports of Prince Rupert and Seattle? Carloads of dry grain might also be diverted to those ports for loading on such ships. Has any consideration been given to this?

Mr. Olson: I am not sure whether consideration has been given to that specific proposal but I know there was a meeting in Winnipeg of the co-ordinating committee, attended by many other people in the grain industry, at which an attempt was made to find the best solution to the congestion problem at Vancouver so that the ships in the harbour can be loaded.

PERMITS TO MOVE DAMP GRAIN ACROSS
PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES

Mr. J. H. Horner (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce but in his absence, I will direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. Is he or the Wheat Board considering the granting of permits for the movement of damp grain across provincial boundaries, without it going to the Wheat Board, to facilitate the movement of damp grain which, if it is not utilized before spring, will be completely spoiled?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we have had a large number of representations to this effect and we have had an equally large number of representations from people who do not wish to see a relaxation in the movement of feed grain over provincial borders. The fact is that this does give an advantage to those people living near feed mills adjacent to provincial borders. Therefore it seems that the most equitable way of sharing the over-all market among all the producers who have tough and damp grain, no matter where they live on the prairies, would be through the Canadian Wheat Board.

Mr. Horner: My question dealt with the granting of permits to individual farmers and in that way allowing the Wheat Board to keep track of the movement of damp grain and the prices at which it is moving. I would like the minister and his department to consider the feasibility of granting permits similar to those that were granted to feed mills to purchase feed grains in western Canada.

Mr. Olson: If there is some novel idea with respect to this matter that would be useful, without giving a larger share of the available market to some producers at the expense of others, I would be very interested in having the hon. member pass that information to us.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR POSITION PAPERS ON
FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs whom I should like to welcome back to Canada. Could the minister tell us whether the position papers upon which certain academics were invited to comment in connection with a reassessment of Canada's foreign policy can be made available to members of the external affairs committee of this house?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I see no objection, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, if any members of the house would like to have copies I would be glad to supply them on request.

IMMIGRATION

POLICY RESPECTING REFUGEES FROM
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Has there been any change in government policy since the present ministry was formed in connection with the admission of refugees from communist countries seeking political asylum?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is asking for a statement of policy and I suggest this is not in order during the question period.

Mr. McCleave: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I directed this question to the Prime Minister some weeks ago and he suggested I should ask it of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I believe it is of some