

Oral Questions

[English]

AGRICULTURE

FEED GRAINS POLICY—INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER
DECISION MADE ON RETENTION OF CONTROL BY WHEAT
BOARD

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions asked some time ago of the Minister of Agriculture. I would ask him whether or not the cabinet has made a decision concerning exclusion of feed grains from the Canadian Wheat Board. Has there been any such decision made?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I said to some other members, the decision and announcement will be made by August 1.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, a simple question like that should be answered clearly. If the government pretends that no decision has been made I should like to ask the minister what will be the nature of the discussion he is to have in Prince Edward Island in connection with feed grains?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I have been invited to attend the meeting. It is not my meeting in Prince Edward Island. I am invited to attend the meeting of provincial ministers of agriculture from all across this land. They are to make their suggestions and requests to me. I am to be there to listen, but you can be sure that will not be all I will be doing there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the right hon. gentleman for a supplementary, but again I ask for co-operation of members because there are only two minutes left before the end of the question period.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This is a question which affects western Canada to a degree no other matter does.

Some hon. Members: Oh!, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, you will notice how the Liberal members ridicule western members by their attitude.

Mr. Speaker: May we have order, please. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman might ask a question now. We are running short of time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, if you would direct your observations to the government members who sneer and yell when I mention western Canada I would appreciate it.

Mr. Trudeau: Don't lecture the Chair.

FEED GRAINS POLICY—REASON FOR ANNOUNCEMENT ON
AUGUST 1—POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WITH WHEAT
POOLS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister why August 1 has been chosen as the time for the announcement, and does the minister, when he goes west along with the Prime Minister to learn what the west wants, intend to interview the various

[Mr. Goyer.]

wheat pools in western Canada to ascertain their suggestions and will they be listened to, too?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this is a very important question which the right hon. gentleman has asked, and I want to say that the Minister of Agriculture for Canada is concerned about the interests of all farmers of Canada. It will be my concern, as it is the concern of the government, to make sure that all farmers in Canada, wherever they may be, those who use feed grain or not, will be treated in an equitable fashion. This is my job as a member of the government and I understand it is government policy to listen and consult. I have discussed this with members of the wheat pools of the three provinces and leaders of farm organizations. I know some of their views. They are not all opposed. All have different views. We are also listening to the provincial governments, and I certainly cannot say so far that they are unanimous in their feelings about what should be done in respect of a feed grains policy.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar who also has a supplementary on this matter, then the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich and then call orders of the day.

FEED GRAINS—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF
POLICY

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a supplementary question. In view of the fact that this government, the Minister of Justice in charge of the Wheat Board, and the Minister of Agriculture are responsible for a grain marketing policy, I should like to ask the minister whether he is prepared to take a responsible stand, be responsible to this parliament, and announce to the House what their policy is with regard to marketing feed grain.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, this minister is responsible and any stand he takes will be a responsible one.

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● (1500)

ENERGY

TAPS TANKER ROUTE—SUGGESTION NO CO-ORDINATION
OF DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES BY DEPARTMENT
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. It arises because of the answer given by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the question put to him by my colleague, the hon. member for Vancouver South, claiming that the Secretary of State for External Affairs is unaware of the exact nature of the exchanges that took place between the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the United States embassy. I would like to ask the Prime Minister if it is now government policy to allow relations between Canada and foreign governments to be carried on through any and all ministries of govern-