

Inquiries of the Ministry

ago, which apparently was very successful, with the cattlemen. I myself the day before yesterday received a telegram from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture asking the government to proceed with the bill as quickly as possible. So apparently opinions are divided on this bill. That is usual in Parliament, but we feel that as the division has lasted more than a year perhaps it is time to get on with the business of counting heads.

Mr. Horner: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Crowfoot on a supplementary and then we will have just about reached the end of the question period. However, I shall also recognize the hon. member for Broadview.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, this is a quick supplementary arising out of the reply of the Prime Minister. With regard to counting heads, I wonder if he would now go along with the calling of a by-election in Assiniboia so the heads could be counted?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Broadview.

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HOUSING

SUGGESTED LIFTING OF URBAN RENEWAL FREEZE

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of housing. Has the minister considered the recommendation of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities with regard to the necessity of lifting the urban renewal freeze imposed by the government? Was this discussed in Winnipeg at the tri-level meeting and, if so, what steps does the government intend to take?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister without Portfolio): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations from the brief of the CFMM were considered; it was discussed briefly during their presentation to cabinet a week or two ago. However, it was not discussed in Winnipeg because the Winnipeg meeting, by agreement of all concerned, was to deal with the basic fundamental decision with regard to entering into tri-level consultations and the agenda. Any precise program discussions were by agreement deferred until that precise question was answered.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Ryan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I was the member who was seeking to ask a supplementary and apparently you took it that is was the hon. member for Broadview. I wonder whether under the circumstances I may be permitted to ask a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That was not the point. The hon. member for Broadview had been waiting 40 minutes for an opportunity to ask a question, supplementary or otherwise. The hon. member for Spadina had his opportunity, and if he

[Mr. Trudeau.]

will bear with the Chair and the House he might be given an opportunity to ask more questions and supplementaries on Monday. Orders of the day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

PRAIRIE GRAIN STABILIZATION ACT

PROVISION FOR PAYMENTS TO WESTERN CANADA PRODUCERS IN YEARS WHEN RECEIPTS BELOW FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE

The House resumed, from Thursday, May 6, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lang that Bill C-244, respecting the stabilization of prairie grain sale proceeds and to repeal or amend certain related statutes, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, last evening in the few minutes I had at my disposal I was beginning to point to the extreme importance attached by this government, as well as by the grain farmers of Canada, to marketing and market development. It was with that priority in mind we established special credit facilities for the Canadian Wheat Board which allowed the Canadian Wheat Board to move into markets such as Brazil, an important market into which we had not been for many years, and into markets like Peru, Syria and the Philippines in order to make sales of grain and to develop new customers for the over-all good of the grain industry.

It was also because of this that we emphasized continually the need to be competitive internationally and the need for Canadian farmers to concentrate on the possibilities which exist in the coarse grains market and in particular, because of the nature of the Canadian production at the moment, on the barley market. It has been our view that this is a market which should grow for us in the international field. We have been talking to farmers about growing barley. This would enable the Wheat Board to go after our potential share of this market. It was also because of our belief that marketing is so important that a fundamental part of our present program included the setting aside on an annual basis of \$10 million for a market development fund, which would allow us to pursue in a most flexible way the encouragement of new customers to look to Canadian grains. It would allow us to look to research into new products and development of better products for the markets, and to assist in a variety of techniques for gaining a Canadian foothold in markets which may not be available to us at the moment or available on only a limited basis.

The market development fund of course is new. Before very long, however, I expect the first announcement to be made of the use of this fund in creating new marketing opportunities. Of course, the emphasis on marketing comes at a time when sales have been going very well. Last July, in an attempt to give farmers a better idea of the year ahead, I was able to forecast the very real