

*Inquiries of the Ministry*PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—MEETINGS WITH
FARM ORGANIZATIONS ON PROTECTION OF
PRODUCERS' POSITION

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact that at the meeting he had with the Federation of Agriculture last week it was stated by that organization that the proposals in respect of the grain receipts policy do not represent an adequate undertaking by the federal government to assist in protecting the position of the Prairie grain producers, is it his intention to meet with the organizations and work out a position mutually satisfactory to the government and these organizations?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, we had a very good discussion with the Federation of Agriculture. Of course, the point was made that the farm organizations and the farmers may never be completely satisfied that the amount which is being paid by the government or the treasury for their particular industry is enough, and we might be left with a difference of opinion in this regard. I think we did agree that this was a matter which required continual discussion and consideration. The point was also made, of course, that while what we are doing may not be regarded by them as enough, it was a substantial improvement over the previous situation, and in that regard I think they did express some gratitude.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, since the representations made to the government by the federation were substantially backed by a previous meeting with the National Farmers Union, would the minister not concede that the condition of the farmer is really not that good?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the supplementary question asked by the hon. member is in the form of an argument and is not in order.

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—ACCEPTANCE OF
NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION PROPOSALS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the 14-point proposals put to him by the National Farmers Union and the request by the Farmers Union that the government re-examine its proposals on the grain stabilization program, will he say whether some or all of these 14 points will be implemented and whether or not the government is re-examining its position on the grain stabilization program?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether the word "re-examination" is the correct word to use when an examination in fact is going on. A good number of the points made by the Farmers' Union, as well as by the CFA, are matters really endorsing what we have already proposed to do. Of course, much of the rest of their briefs contain matters which we are examining and considering on the way to a final decision.

[Mr. Lang.]

FISHERIES

FAILURE OF NOVA SCOTIA TO PARTICIPATE IN SALT-
FISH CORPORATION—ACTION TO PREVENT LOSS
OF INDUSTRY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries. Since the government of Nova Scotia has not agreed to enabling legislation which would permit Nova Scotia to become a participating province in the Saltfish Corporation, will the minister use his influence with the provincial premier in order to prevent the closing down of this traditional industry in Nova Scotia, which will further add to the problems of the fishing industry?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, the saltfish industry can operate either within or outside the Saltfish Corporation. It is my understanding, however, that only Newfoundland-Labrador and the North Shore in Quebec will come under the corporation in 1971.

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GRAIN

REASON FOR SHIPS HAVING TO WAIT TO BE LOADED
AT VANCOUVER

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister responsible for the Wheat Board how many vessels are waiting in Vancouver harbour for the loading of grain and, if the number is substantial, what is the reason for this?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the question of whether it is substantial or not is one of opinion. There have been several vessels waiting for berths there in the last little while. The Wheat Board has indicated in a press release which came into my hands today that many ships which were booked in for November and December are only arriving now because of congestion in foreign ports at times when they should have been unloading. The Wheat Board has explained that in the interest of attempting to move the maximum amount of grain they must run the risk that on occasion more boats will be there than there are berths available. They have also indicated that the grain is moving very quickly into these boats and that there should not be any great delay in berthing the remaining boats.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, would the minister tell us how many vessels are waiting?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly have to check that to give the figure for this very moment.

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—REQUEST FOR
SPECIAL DEBATE

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, as a result of the views expressed over the weekend by farm organizations I should like to ask the minister in charge