

Oral Questions

Mr. Crosbie: The Bank of Nova Scotia is.

Mr. De Bané: This is exactly what I think is most reprehensible, to give a signal to the buyers in the United States that our sellers are engaged in a price war. What an irresponsible statement.

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): She asked the question.

Mr. De Bané: I am happy to report that our companies are behaving responsibly. When we saw a weakness in the market this summer, the Government immediately established a program to buy the cod stocks. The market has firmed up. At the moment the price of cod blocks in the United States is \$1.16 to \$1.18, while last year it was \$1.08. At this moment our major competitors in Europe are short of stock. This means that there is also an upswing for Canadian exporters in the European market.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

AUSTIN AIRWAYS LIMITED DISPUTE

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour whose office indicated he would be here this afternoon, I would like to direct my question to his Parliamentary Secretary. The Canadian Airline Employees Association approached him in late July to ask for ministerial consent to lay a charge of bad faith bargaining against Austin Airways Limited before the Canada Labour Relations Board. Prompt attention to this request might have prevented the necessity of a strike which began on August 23, a month after the Minister was contacted. Could he tell the House if the Minister intends to help resolve this situation by permitting the Canada Labour Relations Board to hear the charge and, if so, when will his consent be given?

[Translation]

Mr. Antonio Yanakis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I wish to take the Hon. Member's question as notice, and I shall advise the Minister accordingly.

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[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

INITIAL PRICE FOR BARLEY

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt-Lake Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister who speaks in this place for the Canadian Wheat Board. He will know that a poor corn crop in the United States has pushed up world barley prices by more than 30 per cent, which means that there is now room for an increase in the initial price for barley. Since higher initial payments will be received by farmers,

there will be increased economic activity right across the country. Can the Minister tell the House if a recommendation for a higher initial price has been made to Cabinet, and when farmers will know whether that will be forthcoming?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member's question I would like to confirm that the Canadian Wheat Board brought forward an assessment about the changing conditions in the feed barley market. I am happy to report to the House that the market has substantially improved during the latter part of the summer, so we might be in a position to do a full assessment. However, I would not want to move on a matter as important as this until I have had the opportunity to consult with the Minister responsible for the Wheat Board who is presently abroad and should be back shortly. We will be meeting as soon as he returns. I hope we will be able to bring forward a recommendation to Cabinet so that we can take advantage of the new barley prices and give a further payment to farmers in that area.

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EMPLOYMENT

CANADA EMPLOYMENT CENTRES—POLICY AFFECTING FUNCTIONAL ILLITERATES

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Canada Employment Centres have established a policy that denies functional illiterates with grade six or less education admission into Manpower programs supported under the Skills Training Act. Why is this policy in place when there is absolutely nothing in the Act denying access to functional illiterates or people with below grade six education?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question. I will have to check and give him a detailed answer at a later date.

EXCLUSION OF INDIANS FROM EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Madam Speaker, while the Minister is checking into that I wonder if he could also check into why treaty Indians are being denied access to academic upgrading programs in exactly the same way under the same Act, with the statement by Manpower officers that this is being covered under Indian Affairs funding, when Indian Affairs funding for Alberta is \$85,000 to cover academic upgrading for 40,000 adult Indians? Could he also check into that?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I will check to see if the assertions of the Hon. Member are accurate, and reply to him directly.