

minated as a result of Canadian Forces base closures would receive six months' notice. I should like to ask whether this policy is still in effect and, if so, has the minister investigated whether civilian employees at the Canadian Forces base at Gimli and other bases subject to closure are being declared surplus to requirements and having their employment terminated in a lesser period than six months?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I have been given a folder today from the Minister of National Defence but there is no reference to this question in it. The best I can assure my hon. friend is that I will bring it to his attention or, if he is delayed in returning to Canada, we will try to obtain an answer for the hon. member.

* * *

PUBLIC WORKS

EARLY CONSIDERATION OF ESTIMATES BY STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (South Western Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. In light of the fact that the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works did not study the estimates of that department last year, will the minister agree to table his estimates at an early date so that committee may make an early start and thoroughly discuss the matter of wharf and harbour facilities particularly in the Atlantic area?

Hon. Arthur Laing (Minister of Public Works): I would be agreeable, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister give consideration to undertaking a special manpower training program for the hundreds of Nova Scotians who have been forced out of their jobs by the new Liberal government in that province?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

* * *

GRAIN

WHEAT—IMMEDIATE INCREASE IN DELIVERY QUOTA

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Wheat Board. Would the minister give immediate consideration to increasing the quota on wheat from two bushels in order to provide badly needed cash to the farmers and to fill the half empty elevators on the Prairies, as requested by the Manitoba wheat pool?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the question of raising quotas is in the hands of the Wheat Board which has been studying carefully both the requirements for grain and also the handling efficiency of the elevator system. I hope the hon. member is not suggesting that it is in fact a wise move to plug the elevators to the hilt so they are incapable of handling—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that the minister's comment is argumentative.

Mr. Dinsdale: In view of the expanded exports and before the severity of winter sets in, would the minister instruct the Wheat Board to increase the quotas?

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON TIMETABLE AND POSITION OF FARM LEADERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): May I ask the minister whether, in view of the severe and specific criticism levelled at the minister's proposed cereal grain policy by the president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and other farm leaders, and in view of the indication by the minister that this program will be finalized before the year's end, he will make a statement on motions to the House early next week setting out the government's time-table and his program for consultations with farm leaders?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that a statement next week on a timetable would be useful. I ask the hon. member to refer back to the comments of the president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. His comments have in fact been very constructive and helpful in our consideration of these proposals.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, would the minister then consider setting before the House the considered opinions of the farm leaders and others who have considered this policy in order that the House might be informed?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, the farm leaders and others have this issue under very serious consideration. They have not yet given me any final view on their positions, but we anticipate having further discussions with them within the next ten days or so.

PRODUCTION AND RECEIPTS POLICY—FARM CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Now that the proceedings of the Canadian Agricultural Congress have been completed, can the minister indicate to the House when he will be in a position to elaborate on the proposed policy of farm unit consolidation as outlined in the grains policy?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a general reference in the grains policy to programs which are being actively reviewed by my colleague the Minister of Agriculture.