

Inquiries of the Ministry

In view of the statement made by the minister last night when speaking in Hamilton, that the present shortage of doctors is only a myth, is this the reason that the health resources fund has been cut back?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): He was talking nonsense.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

GRAIN**PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY ON DRYING OPERATION**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. While the payments from the barley and oats pool will naturally be acceptable to farmers I would point out that the amount is negligible when regard is had to the tremendous cost of drying operations for damp wheat on the prairies. In view of this will the minister now see to it that there will be made available to the western farmers who need the drying apparatus, either through purchase or through rental, a payment of ten cents a bushel, either to the farmers directly or to those who provide the necessary service?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the house, as I did previously, that the reason the final payments are lower is because the initial payments were increased. That has to be taken into consideration. I think it is a rather worth-while point to make again.

With respect to drying facilities, the Minister of Agriculture said that we will soon have a report on the situation. We have already made cash money available to help farmers dry more than they had been drying on their farms, and I think we will wait and see what the situation is at the end of the month.

Mr. Diefenbaker: By the end of the month the situation will be even worse than it is now. Is consideration being given to paying farmers ten cents a bushel as an incentive for drying the wheat, and also as payment for the work that has come to them as a result of the untoward climatic conditions? That is the simple question.

Mr. Pepin: No, Mr. Speaker; but I find it rather worth mentioning that when the opposition attacks us on the rate of unemployment, the only thing it can offer is the

[Mr. Rynard.]

suggestion that subsidies should be paid all down the line.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. member for Mackenzie has a supplementary.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): In view of the fact that many farmers who have taken advantage of the emergency cash advances find the amount of money inadequate to dry all the grain they have, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether consideration is being given to removing the lid on the amount that can be borrowed under that scheme?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have seen the report of January's survey on the situation, and the number of people who invoked lack of funds as an explanation of why they had not been drying more was very low. As I recall, it was 125 out of more than 1,000.

INQUIRY AS TO AVAILABILITY OF BOX CARS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of the statement of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on the export of barley—and I do not expect an answer to this question today—would he look into the situation in which farmers are moving their grain on the C.P.R. in preference to the C.N.R. because they cannot get box cars on the C.N.R. to move the barley off their farms?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Wheat Board has been co-operating with the railways as much as possible, constantly bringing to their attention that situation.

EXTERNAL AID**PROVISION OF FOOD THROUGH TRANSFER OF ARMAMENT FUNDS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Is consideration being given to the suggestion of a national body, the Canadian Catholic Conference, that 10 per cent of Canada's armaments expenditures be spent instead on such peace efforts as the provision of food for underdeveloped countries?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will recognize that this question that he is bringing to the attention of the house is very wide in scope, and should normally be answered by way of a statement on motions.