

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Barnett: A supplementary question. Can the minister tell the House when he expects the drafting of this legislation to be completed and the bill introduced for first reading? Will it be ready in time to look at it while we are still dealing with the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Bill?

Mr. Jamieson: That may be impossible, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the outcome of the debate on the Arctic pollution bill may have an effect on the actual drafting of the Canada Shipping Act amendments. However, if there is no likelihood of that happening as that particular debate proceeds, I believe we could have the first reading within two weeks.

FLOODS**MANITOBA—SPECIAL WHEAT QUOTAS FOR FARMERS WITH FLOODED STORAGE FACILITIES**

Mr. Gerald Richard Cobbe (Portage): In order to save grain that has not yet been damaged, has the minister's department made a decision to grant special quotas to farmers in Manitoba whose storage bins for grain have been flooded?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I have not received a report from the Canadian Wheat Board on this subject. I thank the hon. member for bringing it to my attention. I will certainly discuss with the Wheat Board the possibility of moving in this direction.

MANITOBA—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE AFFECTED

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. In view of the very extensive damage to homes, businesses and other property caused by the serious flooding in Carman and other areas of southern Manitoba, is the Prime Minister giving consideration to providing assistance to those affected in order to relieve the heavy financial losses incurred in what has been described as the worst flooding in the history of that area?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me that the hon. member is reiterating. Possibly I did not understand the question. I have the impression the hon. member's question is the same as the one asked previously. In any event, perhaps the Prime Minister might reply to the question.

[Mr. Jamieson.]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I can merely state that we are awaiting an assessment and appraisal of the damages. If the situation is similar to those in the past where we have helped provincial governments meet the cost of these damages, we will of course be prepared to do so at this time. I cannot answer specifically until I know the extent and nature of the damage.

GRAIN**WHEAT—SUPPLY OF REQUIRED GRADES FOR SHIPMENT TO CHINA**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggart): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of reports that ships have been delayed on the west coast waiting for wheat to be transported under the contract with China because the required grades and kinds of grain are not available, although there was ample room, can the minister tell the House if the situation has been corrected?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the situation arose when a very large ship presented itself for those grades several weeks ahead of schedule. With the block system in effect the situation can and is being rectified very quickly.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE**DAIRYING—POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF POLICY RESPECTING GRANTS**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to direct a very important question to the Minister of Agriculture before the oral question period expires.

In view of the widespread discontent of industrial milk producers and in view of the present demonstrations in Quebec, mainly in my own constituency, at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, in protest against the government dairy policy, would the minister consider amending or recommending that amendments be made to the dairy policy announced on March 23 so as to adapt it more closely to the needs of dairy producers in order that they be more satisfied and their income less penalized?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): We intend to hold further discussions with