Inquiries of the Ministry
WHEAT—ACHIEVEMENT OF FORECAST
TOTAL SALES

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): My supplementary question is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Yesterday, in reply to a question from my colleague the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, he said he was still optimistic about the possibility of exporting 375 million bushels of wheat by the end of July. In view of the fact that less than half of this amount was sold in the first eight months, can the minister tell the House on what he bases his optimism that 192 million bushels will be exported in the remaining four months?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is not in order. It is clearly a debate.

TRANSPORT

MARITIME PROVINCES—PUBLICATION AND IM-PLEMENTATION OF REPORT OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister received or is he about to receive a report from the federal-provincial advisory committee on transportation in the maritimes, and will there be any publication of the report? Also, has he any ideas on what action will be contemplated?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I will say, in answer to all points in the question, that the report was received a few days ago. It is now being examined by me and by officials of the department. I have had preliminary discussions with some of the representatives from New Brunswick and am proposing to have others this weekend with the other provinces. I see no personal reason why the report should not be made public but I will consult with them. I might say, on the fourth point about implementation, that it will come as quickly as possible.

AIR CANADA

REPORTED TRANSFER OF PILOTS AND STEW-ARDESSES BASED IN WINNIPEG

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the reports in Winnipeg, where I spent part of yesterday—

Some hon. Members: Explain.

[Mr. Lang.]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): It is nice to be missed, Mr. Speaker. In view of reports that more than 100 Air Canada pilots and an even larger number of Air Canada stewardesses who are presently based in Winnipeg are to be transferred to other cities so far as their base is concerned, will the minister take this matter up with Air Canada in the hope that an assurance can be given that this further slap will not be given to Winnipeg?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to do that.

GRAIN

WHEAT—ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAM—EX-TENSION OF DEADLINE FOR REMOVING COVER CROPS—LAND UNDER WATER

Mr. A. B. Douglas (Assiniboia): I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In light of the delay in seeding in many areas of the prairies this spring, has the minister considered requests that have been made to have the July 15 deadline under Operation Lift for removing cover or nurse crops of oats changed to July 31 and, if so, can the minister inform the House as to the decision reached?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): We have given serious consideration to the many representations on this subject but we have made no decision to change the date for the removal of the cover crop. The difficulty includes the fact that there is a commercial market for forage and for hay, and a step in this direction could seriously interfere or disrupt that market. Of course, we contemplate watching closely the forage situation as the year develops, and if there appears to be some special need different action might be required.

Mr. Douglas (Assiniboia): I have a further question with regard to the extremely wet conditions in some areas. Can the minister assure farmers that cultivated land that may still be under water at the time of inspection or aerial survey will not be ineligible for benefits under the Lift program?

Mr. Lang: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there should be no difficulty in classing cultivated land under water as being out of cultivation for purposes of the program.

Mr. Baldwin: How about rice?