

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the numerous suggestions made in the debate yesterday and that have been made by organizations outside the house for the solution of this problem and in view of the fact that almost half of the shipping points are not yet on the five-bushel quota, can the minister advise us whether the Canadian Wheat Board or the minister is prepared either to recommend the extension of the crop year or to allow the country elevators to store grain wherever they wish, including outside, in order to complete the delivery of the five-bushel quota by July 31?

Mr. Pepin: I understand that storing outside is not a cautious measure to take, but I took notice last night of the several suggestions made by the hon. member during the debate yesterday. I had them passed along to the Wheat Board this morning. I was able to confirm that I had answered correctly two or three of the questions regarding the use of gondola cars, the renting of extra cars from the Canadian Railways and of cars from the United States. These are some measures that have already been taken by the Wheat Board to cope with the present difficulties.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question that I should like to direct to the Minister of Transport. Has the minister had a statement from the railway companies indicating that they will not be able to provide sufficient box cars in order to take away the five-bushel quota at country elevator points?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, I have had no such statement from the railways.

[Later:]

Mr. Benjamin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether or not authority to suspend the allocation of cars to shipping points where the five-bushel quota has been achieved lies with the Canadian Wheat Board or with the railways? If it lies with the railways, will the minister investigate allegations that cars are being withdrawn from shipping points before the five bushel quota has been reached

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have received many representations on this general subject. Some farmers feel that they are not being as well treated as others. I regularly take these observations to the Wheat Board officials and

[Mr. Pepin.]

they try to solve any problems in co-operation with the railways. Again, the Wheat Board commissioner told me this morning that he was receiving maximum support from the railways in these difficult times.

TRADE**WHEAT—STABILIZATION OF MINIMUM PRICES UNDER INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the announced wheat price cuts established by the Canadian Wheat Board at the opening of trading on Monday of some two to seven cents a bushel on most grades, has the minister any reliable information that I.G.A. minimum prices will now stabilize within that range?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I did say yesterday in the debate that I could give no such assurance. It will all depend upon the reaction of other countries, like Australia and the European Economic Community members, to the United States move. I also said yesterday in the debate that I was very much hoping that prices would level off at a new plateau as a result of the United States and Canadian adjustments.

Mr. Gleave: A further supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to hon. members that to some extent we are now reviving the debate that took place all day yesterday and last night. I appreciate that the questions hon. members are asking are important, but in view of the fact that the question period is running short of time we might pass on to another subject. However, I believe there are two members with supplementaries who might be recognized.

Mr. Gleave: In view of the minister's answer to my last question, are further meetings of the nature of the Washington meeting contemplated? In other words, are the exporting countries prepared to meet continuously until they arrive at some stabilization of the minimum prices?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the working group to which I referred when I came back from Washington is planned for next week.