

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture): I have nothing definite I can tell the house at the present moment on that matter.

Mr. Argue: Can the minister say whether negotiations are taking place for a meeting at an early date, as indicated by the Prime Minister on June 9?

Mr. Harkness: No negotiations are taking place. Several of the separate member organizations of the western liaison committee have written asking for this meeting. A date has not yet been set for it.

Mr. Argue: I have a further supplementary question. Is the government prepared to meet the liaison committee?

Mr. Harkness: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: In view of the previous answer it seems to me that the question becomes hypothetical.

Mr. Argue: There is no information in the minister's answer as to whether the government is prepared to meet the delegation, and the Prime Minister said this was the case.

Mr. Harkness: I think it has been made clear in this house on several occasions in the past, Mr. Speaker, that the government is willing to meet organizations of this sort at any appropriate time when the matter can be arranged and any useful discussion can be held.

HOUSING

NORTHERN ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR FURTHER LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. J. Godin (Nickel Belt): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works. It arises out of a telegram I have received from the home builders association in an area in northern Ontario. I presume the minister has received a similar telegram. In view of the fact that only six loans have been made since January 1, and the fact that unemployment is considered to amount to 50 per cent in the building trades, will the minister consider making home loans available immediately so these may bring about a certain amount of relief from the present condition?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): I want to thank the hon. member for this question and to assure him that the matter of loans is under our constant consideration, particularly in his area. If any announcement can be made I assure the house that it will be made.

Mr. Godin: I have a supplementary question. Owing to the fact that if the parade of homes is to be held in the first week of September the homes should be started now, would the minister care to tell the house the decision before the end of the week?

Mr. Walker: I make the same answer that I made to the first question, Mr. Speaker.

SUDBURY—REPORTED REFUSAL OF INSURANCE COMPANY LOANS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. R. Mitchell (Sudbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Public Works. Following correspondence received by me from the minister advising that a certain insurance company is prepared to lend money for building purposes, will he comment on a telegram received by the building trades council in Sudbury to the effect that no loans by the Canada Life Assurance Company have been considered in this area?

Hon. D. J. Walker (Minister of Public Works): I will be happy to discuss this matter with the hon. member at any time to suit his convenience.

CRIMINAL LAW

OBSCENE LITERATURE—JUDICIAL DECISION RESPECTING "LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER"

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. It stems from the decision of a Quebec judge that the book "Lady Chatterley's Lover" is obscene, a decision based upon the 1959 change in the Criminal Code. Has this decision the effect of banning the book throughout all of Canada as well? If not, by what stages may such a ban come into effect?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): That is too complicated a question to answer on the orders of the day, Mr. Speaker. If the hon. member will look up the debate we had on this matter last year I think he will find that the matter was discussed in detail there, and will see the answer to the question he has asked.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): I wish to ask the Minister of Justice a question. Does the minister consider himself to be an expert on what constitutes obscene literature?

Mr. Fulton: No, Mr. Speaker. I leave that distinguished position to my friend the hon. member for Kootenay West.