The answer is that I received a telegram late last night from the mayor—no—from the Premier of British Columbia.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Trudeau: It is in connection with the floods at Trail. I am sending him an answer today.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO REDUCE POVERTY

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Replying to a question asked this morning by the hon. member for York South, the Prime Minister said he had answered the question two days ago. The original question was whether the government was planning to introduce legislation to deal with aspects of poverty other than those associated with regional poverty. The Prime Minister, as reported at page 7857 of *Hansard*—

Mr. Speaker: Order please. There is no question of privilege. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask the question again.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I will try to ask a specific question along the lines of the one the hon. member for York South raised. Does the government intend during the present session of parliament to introduce legislation dealing with urban poverty?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Thus far, Mr. Speaker, our efforts have been largely consumed in resisting the reckless economic demands of the New Democratic party.

HOUSING

THOMPSON, MAN.—AVAILABILITY OF MORTGAGE MONEY

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio from Winnipeg South in his capacity as minister in charge of housing. Prior to the Easter recess the former Minister of Transport assured me he intended to make C.M.H.C. mortgage money available for purposes of highrise apartment construction in Thompson, Manitoba. Will the minister look into this matter and tell us how it stands, in order that he may be able to report on it during the debate this afternoon?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has made his submission to the minister which we must assume has been taken into account.

GRAIN

FUNDS FOR PLANTING OPERATIONS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Since the minister must now be aware that it is mechanically impossible, owing to the tremendous volume of work, for the Standing Committee on Agriculture to report to parliament for some weeks, is the government contemplating any immediate measures to provide western grain growers with emergency operating capital prior to their planting season?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I cannot agree that it will take several weeks or an undue length of time for the committee to make its recommendations or findings. Although I am not a member of the committee I have spoken to several members who have indicated that they intend to have a report ready very soon.

Mr. Danforth: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister of the opinion that no action will be taken prior to the time this standing committee makes its report?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is asking for an expression of opinion, which is contrary to the rules.

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When the committee makes its report will the minister take action on the recommendations of the committee, resulting from its tour of western Canada?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, we will be very interested in what the committee has to say as a result of its tour of western Canada.

TRADE

WHEAT—SUGGESTED EXPANSION OF SALES PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, may I address a supplementary question either to the Minister of Agriculture or to the Minister from Saskatoon-Humboldt. Since the chairman of the Canadian Wheat Board indicated to the members of our agricultural committee only a few days ago that it would be useful if the sales Promotion staff of the Canadian Wheat Board could be supplemented by trade department personnel, may I ask whether the government has given active consideration to that proposition?