

all other members to respect the rules. I think the hon. member owes it to the Chair to co-operate. The rules are difficult enough to administer and interpret without the position of the Chair being made more difficult, if not impossible. I call upon the hon. member to qualify the statement he has made.

Mr. Howard: Now that the minister has admitted that there is no director—and there has been no director for the past year; that office has been left vacant—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Howard: True, there are two acting directors but that does not give the minister licence to say there is a director.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray: On a question of privilege, there are not two acting directors. The position is not vacant. It is being occupied by Mr. J. J. Quinlan and I feel the hon. member should not, either wittingly or unwittingly, attempt to mislead the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister is not helping the Chair. There are just a few minutes left before the end of the question period and I would not like them to be used in a battle over what the hon. member has said or not said. As I heard him, he made a comment which I gather from his introduction he is about ready to qualify.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I am one who is coming quickly to the conclusion that the minister cannot deliberately do anything, so I withdraw the word "deliberately". But he sure did it out of ignorance.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that the hon. member has settled the situation completely. My understanding is that he has withdrawn the charge, the very serious charge, that another member has deliberately misled the House. I would hope hon. members could debate in this chamber without using language which is clearly unparliamentary and which they know, from their experience, to be unparliamentary. As a very humble member, I certainly cannot see what is achieved by using expressions of this kind and unparliamentary words.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TRANSPORT

LOSS OF SHIPMENT OF NICKELS BEING MOVED BY RAIL TO WINNIPEG

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker, and I express the hope that he is feeling better. Has the minister any information for the House concerning a lost nickel shipment on its way by rail to Winnipeg, possibly in Longlac area?

Oral Questions

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I am not aware of this. I will inquire and report to the hon. member.

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AGRICULTURE

COST OF BALER TWINE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. The minister in his remarks yesterday indicated that certain agricultural costs had increased by some 300 to 400 per cent, and since baler twine is one of the items affected I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he has taken any action in an effort to contain its price and, if so, what results he has achieved?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): As I am sure the hon. member knows, this is an imported product. Most of the people who produced baler twine have gone out of business for the same reason that some farmers have gone out of business, because they could not make a buck. There is a real world shortage of supply and everybody is bidding for it. Perhaps the hon. member has a suggestion as to what more we can do. We have asked people to produce a synthetic type of baler twine made out of plastic. I believe some of this will be on the market. But I am sure there will still be a terrific problem just the same as there is a sugar problem which is a world problem.

● (1150)

AGRICULTURAL INPUT COSTS AS PART OF CONSUMER COSTS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, since the answer to my question is no, I should like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether agricultural costs are considered as part of consumer costs, and has he been able to obtain any satisfactory answers whatsoever in his office as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that they are considered as inputs into consumer costs.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

POSSIBILITY OF RAIL SERVICE DISRUPTION BECAUSE OF PROPOSED RUNTHROUGH OF CNR TRAINS INVOLVING NAKINA, ONT.

Mr. B. Keith Penner (Thunder Bay): Mr. Speaker, I have a very urgent question for the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Nielsen: Phone him.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Penner: In view of the proposed runthrough of CNR trains through the home terminal of Nakina, Ontario, a proposal that has been agreed upon by the company and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, despite strong local protest and resistance in Nakina and Hornepayne, I