

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** This matter is under very active consideration by the government. There was a meeting this morning directed particularly to this very serious issue. At the present time, however, the government thinks it would be inadvisable to take immediate action though I can assure the hon. member that we understand the seriousness of the problem.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I should also like to ask the Acting Prime Minister if he intends to comply with the recommendation made by the producers to the effect that, costs having increased considerably, the government should grant a subsidy to compensate them for the increase in costs they will have to assume under the circumstances?

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** I am not quite sure of the relationship between this supplementary and the original question. If it relates to the possibility that there may be extra costs arising out of interference with the movement of the commodity, that is one question, but if its scope is of a more general nature I should like to have it amplified so that I could give a more satisfactory answer.

[Translation]

**Mr. La Salle:** Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary.

Because of the importance of the matter, can the minister assure the House that, at the latest tomorrow, he will be able to make a statement which, I trust, will bring a solution to Quebec producers' problem?

[English]

**Mr. Sharp:** I cannot give that undertaking, though I can give an assurance that the matter is under the most active consideration.

\* \* \*

**GRAIN**

**REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO IMPROVE SHIPPING CONDITIONS**

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact there is a desperate shortage of feed grain on Quebec farms and that approximately only one third of the crop year remains while some areas in Western Canada are still on a three-bushel quota, and the Minister of Agriculture failed to answer my question yesterday—

**Some hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Towers:** —concerning mismanagement of grain shipments to Bangla Desh, would the government instruct the Standing Committee on Agriculture to make recommendations to parliament to resolve the continuing disastrous dilemma relating to the movement of grain?

[Mr. La Salle.]

● (1410)

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think that would be the most effective way of dealing with the problem.

**Mr. Towers:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The government does not seem to realize the dilemma in which the farmers find themselves. In view of the fact that the western grain producers have lost \$50 million this crop year owing to the inaction of this government, what proposal does the government intend to make if they are not going to accept the proposal that I have made?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, when the government has something to announce in this regard it will do so. I do not think it would be appropriate or would help very much to follow the suggestion of the hon. member.

\* \* \*

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

**SUGGESTED MEASURES TO AID JOB CREATION—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the effects of a budget that is brought in some time during the month of May—which means it will probably be nearer to June than April—will take some time to work their way through the economy, particularly in terms of job creation, could the minister inform the House whether the government has any intention of taking action in the budget that is brought in with regard to any of the four programs that I will specifically name to the Acting Prime Minister, namely the summer student employment program, the winter capital projects fund, the federal-provincial employment loans program and the railway relocation program, all of which could be implemented before the budget in May? Does the government plan to take any kind of action in these areas?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest that these questions should be directed to the respective ministers. I know that my hon. friend the Minister of Manpower and Immigration may want to deal with the first of these questions. The Minister of Transport is not here today, but perhaps the question could be taken as notice.

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, in response to the first part of the question, a decision has been taken to augment the student summer employment funding for this year to the extent of \$13.4 million. The details of the allocation of this \$13.4 million within the various programs will be very shortly announced to all members of the House and will include a substantial amount for the Opportunities for Youth program.