

Inquiries of the Ministry

answer it. Has opposition been expressed by the government to Britain's joining the European Common Market, keeping in mind that if it did join it would not be bound to import agricultural products from Canada, and also keeping in mind that France and other nations in the Common Market heavily subsidize their agricultural exports?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, I am sure it is very clear to the hon. member that the detail he is asking for now is not available with respect to Britain's decision, and with respect to the conditions that the Common Market might impose regarding Britain's entry.

WHEAT—ADDITIONAL TECHNIQUES TO
INCREASE EXPORTS—ACTION OF
WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a further question to the Minister of Agriculture, related to this matter. Are the minister and the government considering other techniques to secure more export sales of grain, such as barter arrangements, acceptance of the currency of the buying nations as part payment, and better and longer term credit arrangements for the purchasing nations?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the government, and in particular the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, are considering all such things that may be helpful to enhance our international marketing.

Mr. Benjamin: As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, in view of the statements made last week by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce about his concern regarding Canada's wheat surplus and the glut of wheat in world markets, is the government taking any action to provide authority and funds for the expansion of the Canadian Wheat Board, in particular its sales facilities and its research into marketing and products?

Mr. Olson: Mr. Speaker, here again I have to give the same answer because it is the one that is most accurate, and that is that many of these things, including the details, are under consideration, and when an announcement is ready it will be made.

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a further supplementary to the Prime Minister. In view of the repeated answers of this same nature that we have had all winter

[Mr. Woolliams.]

and spring, will the government establish an emergency committee of the cabinet to deal with these proposals and to take action on increasing our export sales?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I don't see any need to follow this suggestion.

GRAIN

ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS TO BUILD
STORAGE FACILITIES

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that a large proportion of the grain storage facilities on western farms is filled with last year's crop, have any plans been formulated to provide assistance to farmers to build more storage facilities, in view of the fact that in two to three months what looks like another big crop will be coming off the land?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): As I have said a number of times in the house, Mr. Speaker, when any further or additional programs of assistance with respect to this difficult market situation are ready we will announce them in the normal way in the house. It may be of some interest to note that while there is a prospect for a good crop in some parts of the prairies, there is also some concern about drought.

WHEAT—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION
TO MEET LOWER PRAIRIE INCOME

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Agriculture. Recognizing the vast energy that he is putting into this matter may we expect him, or one of his colleagues, to announce the government's decision on requests for aid to the western farmer to meet the western farmer's cash problem? May we expect an announcement before the house rises for the summer recess?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly sure, but about five or six times since last October the government has made announcements respecting its assistance programs. There may be additional assistance programs decided upon and, as has been indicated, as soon as the policy decisions are taken an announcement will be made in the usual way.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of