

*Oral Questions***CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD**

Mr. Doug Fee (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State responsible for grains and oilseeds.

After a very difficult spring, farmers on the prairies took off bumper crops this year. They are now expressing a very serious concern with sales. There are conflicting reports coming out. Some reports say the board is selling grain, other reports say the board is not selling grain. Farmers are legitimately concerned and we are all getting a number of questions.

I would like to ask the minister what are the facts about grain sales? What are he and his officials doing? Is he going to be able to sell the product?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Grains and Oilseeds)): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises an issue of concern. I can tell him without commenting specifically on sales that the Wheat Board regularly sells to 60 countries around the world. It has been doing a good job and as a result of its ongoing sales efforts it looks like we are going to have very good grain movement right into the new year.

The hon. member should know that the board has taken up all of its options as far as Great Lakes shipping capacity to the end of the shipping season. It has asked the railways to give it all of their rolling stock right into February. With that, and with the cash advances in place, it looks like we are going to have very good grain movement well into the new year. That should put us in good position to exceed the exports we had last year.

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ITALIAN CANADIANS

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I address my question to the Secretary of State.

On May 23 I asked the Prime Minister what the government planned to do in terms of the request by the National Congress of Italian Canadians on Italian Canadian redress. He responded by saying: "The Government of Canada is seized of the matter and we will deal with it urgently and efficiently".

Is the government now in a position to make good on this commitment and if so, will the minister share with this House the elements of the process and package as his government did with the Japanese Canadian redress issue.

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, the government has listened very carefully and is examining the proposals that have been submitted. We will provide further information at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

This coming weekend the Prime Minister is expected to address the Congress of Italian Canadians in Toronto. Considering that this event has stirred very legitimate hopes within the community and that the Prime Minister's Office will not release the text of the speech, why did the government choose to treat this very delicate question as a state secret instead of openly discussing its projects with Canadians and hon. members so as to find a solution that is acceptable to all parties involved and to all Canadians?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship)): Mr. Speaker, the answer is the same, in both official languages. We heard the representations of the communities involved and we considered their propositions. As I said in English, we will provide more details at the appropriate time.

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CANADA LABOUR CODE

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour and Minister of State for Transport.

Next Monday the House will vote on the non-use of scabs in labour disputes involving Crown corporations. It stands to reason that after second reading there will be unanimous consent to amend the legislation with a view to banning the use of scabs when the people involved are federal employees or workers governed by a federal charter.

With that in mind and heedful of statements made by the hon. members for Laval-Est, Sherbrooke, Abitibi and Jonquière in support of this bill, would the minister