

[Translation]

FINANCE

APPLICATION OF ANTI-PROFITEERING BILL TO FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Could he tell the House whether the legislative proposals will forbid the financial institutions from making higher profits, as we are experiencing now due to the practice that consists in causing prices to rise and therefore, increasing the cost of living and inflation; in the affirmative, will new conditions be included to this effect in the bill in respect of combines investigation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member would refer to the bill on profiteering practices now before the House, he would find that, indeed it contains provisions to prevent excess profits when, in certain conditions, they are being derived from the broadening of the margin between costs and prices.

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Would the right hon. Prime Minister tell us also whether current financial business practices are questionable, or whether they are considered acceptable and harmless as regards the causes of inflation and rise in the cost of living?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, certain practices are no doubt unacceptable and this is why we have before the House two bills, one on profiteering and the other on competition, which would give the government authority to act and prevent such practices, and this is still another reason—and I am grateful to the hon. member for the opportunity—why we feel this legislation should be enacted before dissolution.

[English]

INCREASES IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES—THE BUDGET AND INFLATION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance that is supplementary to the question asked by my hon. friend from Trinity. It is in response to the urging of the Prime Minister that members of the opposition provide correct information. Since 1968 the increase in government spending has been 136.9 per cent, and the minister's latest budget indicates that expenditures are up by 22 per cent and revenues on a national accounts basis are up by 26 per cent. I ask the minister whether he will have one of his colleagues who is to speak this afternoon in the limited time left to the government give some reasons, other than the flimsy ones advanced by the minister, why his budget is not in fact a very inflationary budget?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, will be addressing himself to that subject, and in analysing the forecast of expenditures for 1974-75 will indicate on a factual basis that the increase for goods and services projected by the federal government is 12 per

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cent. When he goes through the accounting for the benefit of the House and the country, I think the hon. member will have some homework done for him that he might have done before putting his question.

● (1500)

AVAILABILITY OF LOANS TO FARMERS—RESULT OF MINISTER'S DISCUSSIONS WITH BANKS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Some time ago the minister stated he would hold discussions with officials of the banks of Canada to ensure that under the Farm Improvement Loans Act money would be available for farmers, in view of the fact that some banks seem to be unwilling to lend money by way of farm improvement loans. Has the minister had these discussions and, if so, what was the outcome?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I shall be giving that information to the hon. member's colleague, the hon. member for Lisgar, and I will send him a copy of the letter.

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AGRICULTURE

ALLEGATION BY FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD THAT POULTRY PRODUCERS MAKING EXORBITANT PROFITS—EXPORTS OF FERTILIZER

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Because the government has based so much of its struggle against inflated food prices on encouraging in every way increased Canadian food production, does the minister meekly accept, or is he prepared to publicly challenge, allegations by the government's Food Prices Review Board that through marketing boards and other means Canadian producers are receiving exorbitant profits, especially on eggs and other poultry products?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the hon. member's question, it would take too long in the House to correct the erroneous and inflammatory suggestions that the *Globe and Mail* had in its paper today. But I will be issuing a news release later today.

Mr. Danforth: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which has to do with food production. As food production is also greatly affected by the price and availability of fertilizer, can the minister indicate what percentage of fertilizer supplies is being exported by Canada to help developing nations, as indicated by the Minister of Finance in his budget address?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, this has been a long-standing practice by the government of Canada and a lot of plants were purposely developed to produce fertilizer for the developing countries. This is one way we can aid them in a better form than we ever did before. Exports have continued to these countries which are in need. I am sure no hon. member would want to see those countries placed in a