

vants will earn more than \$62,500, may I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the government will consider the serious needs of senior citizens and of war veterans and give the green light to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the Minister of Veterans Affairs to increase the basic amounts of the pensions which come under their jurisdictions?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has, of course, been continuing to give serious consideration to these matters but I regret I cannot give the green light to the hon. gentleman's request at this point.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I really have two supplementaries to ask, Mr. Speaker, if I am allowed, but in case I am permitted only one I will direct it to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Now that it is clear that money is available for some purposes, will the hon. gentleman go all out to win an increase in the basic disability pension and get rid of the wide gap which presently exists?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): I will do what I have done on previous occasions. I will put forward my best efforts.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the Minister of National Health and Welfare do the same?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is the most depressing answer we have had yet.

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[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS

REASON FOR NEXT MEETING OF MINISTER WITH NATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Mr. Pierre Bussières (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Today's newspapers report that the minister is going to meet the representatives of the Confederation of National Trade Unions. Can the minister give us an indication of the purpose of those meetings?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Well, Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting planned for the next day or two with leaders of the CSN for discussions along the lines of those conducted with the CLC and the business community concerning the various options the government is considering with respect to a decontrol period. This is the meeting to which the hon. member may be referring.

Oral Questions

ENERGY

DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NEWFOUNDLAND AND QUEBEC ON DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO PROJECTS IN LABRADOR—POSSIBLE FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and it relates to the meeting held between the premiers of Quebec and Newfoundland with regard to the development of alternative sources of hydro energy in Labrador. Has the hon. gentleman's department taken any part in these discussions or, if not, has any approach been made by either provincial government for federal participation or financial help?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): There was no federal participation in these discussions nor did I receive a request from either of the provinces that there should be.

Mr. Marshall: Since there is a source of hydro power available on the Lower Churchill and having regard to the energy shortage, would the minister take the initiative by approaching the two premiers to ensure that this development goes ahead in the best interests of the country? He has already offered \$340 million to Newfoundland in connection with the development of the Lower Churchill.

Mr. Gillespie: I took that initiative a long, long time ago. I am still waiting to receive from the government of Newfoundland updated information with respect to Gull Island. I am ready to sit down and discuss what I consider to be an asset of national importance, but I need that information, and it lies, right now, with the Newfoundland government.

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IMMIGRATION

JAMES KENNEDY—REASON FOR DEPORTATION ORDER—POSSIBLE EXECUTION OF ORDER PRIOR TO HEARING OF APPEAL

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): A question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, Mr. Speaker. I recognize it is the minister's duty to carry out the provisions of the Immigration Act but I wish to raise with him today a matter which concerns human rights, one which I brought to his attention three weeks ago. The issue is not specifically James Peter Joseph Kennedy but the principle involved. This man has been held in maximum security in Vancouver, since May 27, nearly two months, now, on the suspicion that he is really someone else, an Irish terrorist, although no criminal charges have been laid in Canada and no public hearing has been held here, and no extradition proceedings have been commenced either against Kennedy or against the other man, McCann. I should like to ask for what reason the deportation order was issued and whether the appeal to the Federal Court, already lodged, will be heard before the order is executed?