

Oral Questions

ing a conference this fall, then the date of the conference will be set. We even reserved certain days to make sure that we could hold the conference if the provinces met the conditions we have laid down.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for that elaborate answer. In order that the House and the country might understand just where the holdups exist and what are the problems and conditions in respect of arranging another conference, will the minister indicate whether he has had communication with the provincial ministers and is he prepared to table those communications? If those communications are not set out in letter form would the minister be prepared to table them at a later date, if and when they take that form?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is correspondence and I will be very pleased to table it in the House, obviously with the permission of my correspondents which I will try to get as soon as possible.

● (1150)

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

METHOD OF CONDUCTING DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERESTED GROUPS ON PROPOSALS TO FIGHT INFLATION—POSSIBLE DATE OF COMPLETION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, relating to the exchange of views that is to take place between this government and the principal groups in our society, could the Prime Minister indicate who will conduct this exchange so far as the government is concerned? Will it be done by himself? How is the exchange to be structured? Will it be informal or will there be some formality about the discussion? Most important of all, when will the process be completed as now envisaged by the government? For example, will it be completed before the budget is presented to the House?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the questions are quite important. The government has been working on answers to all of them. In other words, the questions involve the type of serious consultations in which particular ministers will be involved, and when and where the groups will conduct the meetings as well as what type of exchanges will take place. I understand the concern of the Leader of the Opposition about this, but for the same reason that we do not judge at this time that it would be useful to have open summits on the subject of inflation it is doubtful that I would want to make progress reports on these matters, what went on at that time or what particulars were involved.

At some stage the debate will have to become public. We have indicated through the Speech from the Throne that there would be a federal-provincial conference early in the new year, and there is no doubt that it will deal with inflation. However, I would not want the Leader of the Opposition to believe that at an early stage, certainly before the budget, we will have made public the details of these consultations.

[Mr. Pelletier (Minister of Communications).]

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I long since gave up any hope of being told anything about what was being discussed. I should like to ask the Prime Minister how long he sees this process continuing. Is this being followed up with a sense of urgency with a view to these discussions being completed prior to the budget or are they to be terminated sometime next year?

Mr. Trudeau: Certainly not before the budget, but unlike the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings we have muscle that can endure.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HONDURAS—POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING ANOTHER PLANE TO TRANSPORT RELIEF SUPPLIES

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Given the buildup of materials in Ontario and across Canada, particularly the nine tons of milk in my riding, I wonder whether the minister is planning to send another plane to Honduras in the very near future.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows the Government of Canada has made a substantial contribution to the relief of the tragic situation in Honduras. Transportation assistance has been provided for the movement of supplies to that country. At the present time a National Defence plane is in Honduras assisting in the movement of supplies within that country. Also at the present time I have under consideration with the officials of CIDA the question of whether it would be appropriate in the circumstances to provide additional transportation for materials which have been generously donated by the Canadian people to assist Hondurians in this crisis.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

STRIKE OF MARINERS ON GREAT LAKES—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SETTLEMENT WILL BRING STABILITY TO INDUSTRY

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that more than twice as much grain passes through the harbour of Thunder Bay as passes through Vancouver, and that virtually no grain has been moved through the harbour for nearly two months, can we have some assurance that yesterday's announced settlement of the marine strike on the Great Lakes will bring some long term labour stability to this industry?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I might say that we are particularly pleased with regard to these two settlements voluntarily arrived at