

Inquiries of the Ministry

that the abortion law is being unevenly applied, partly as a result of congestion in certain metropolitan hospitals, is the minister studying any measures in conjunction with the provincial health ministers intended to ensure that this law is fairly applied regardless of whether people live in rural or urban communities?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): This is a matter we can properly deal with in debate. Of course, the administration of the law depends on enforcement by the provinces.

[Later:]

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, arising from his earlier answer to the effect that uneven facilities for abortion available in different hospitals could be considered in debate. I should like to ask the minister to do his best to see that we get an opportunity for such a debate during the present session.

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INDUSTRY**INCREASE IN PRICE OF CERTAIN SHIRTS BECAUSE OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the government calculated what, if any, increase in the prices of work shirts and low and medium-priced dress shirts will result, or has resulted, from the new import restrictions announced last month?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The opinion of my experts is that the effect will be minimal if any. I would remind the hon. gentleman that there will still be a little more than 1.2 million dozen low priced shirts imported into Canada next year. I am quite sure the hon. member will be able to find one his size if he cares to.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: I do not think we should get personal, Mr. Speaker. May I ask whether the Prices and Incomes Commission was consulted in connection with the decision to limit imports of work shirts and low and medium-priced dress shirts?

Mr. Pepin: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker but all departments were.

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[Translation]

INCOME TAX**PROPOSED DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW BILL**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Finance a question.

The Finance Minister of Quebec stated yesterday that he still hoped the new tax system would not go into effect until 1973. Could the minister tell the House whether the government intends to apply the new system in 1972?

[Mr. Ritchie.]

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I have indicated very often that it is the intention of the government to proceed with Bill C-259 and to have it passed and implemented on January 1, 1972.

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AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR RESTRAINT IN PRESSING FOR PAYMENTS ON FARM CREDIT CORPORATION LOANS**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Bearing in mind the cash shortage among farmers today, would the minister consider sending a communication to the Farm Credit Corporation asking them to show understanding, caution and friendly restraint in attempting to extract from farmers payments on Farm Credit Corporation loans?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I did that several months ago.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER AND ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the elusive Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has he met with the members of the Atlantic Development Council, and when may we expect a statement from him concerning the recommendations contained in the council's first report?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not met with the members of the council; I have not been asked to meet with them, though I shall probably do so at a future date. However, if I have a statement to make I shall make it in due course.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East on a supplementary and then call orders of the day.

SIGNING OF SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT WITH NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I wish to direct a supplementary or related question to the minister. Can he now confirm the signing of the supplementary DREE agreement with the province of Nova Scotia and tell us when an announcement may be made?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I think all these questions should be a little more precise. Does the agreement to which the hon. member refers concern highways? If so, I hope it will be signed very soon.