

Oral Questions

pared to the corporations, to get some of the benefits of removing this special tax in the sense of having permission to increase wages and salaries in excess of the minimum guidelines in the program?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): I would say no to that, Mr. Speaker. We have laid emphasis on the importance of any excess revenues being used for reinvestment in Canada with the consequent job creating effect.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—DATE OF AMENDING OF APPEAL PROCEDURE

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, of course the job creation effect does not bear on the salary benefits that may or may not be available. My supplementary question concerns the reference the minister made in his statement about amendments that would be forthcoming with regard to the appeal procedures in the legislation. Following the questions I put to the minister on this subject some two weeks ago, may I ask again when we can expect specific legislation? Can the minister tell the House what part of the appeal procedure the government intends to amend?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the matter is still under consideration. I think it would be more effective to wait until the announcement is made, then the hon. member will be able to see the exact manner in which we propose to proceed.

Mr. Broadbent: Can the minister at least tell the House when we can expect the legislation?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): As I say, Mr. Speaker, the matter is under consideration. The House will be advised just as soon as the final position is taken.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, since the right hon. Prime Minister is not here, I would like to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister.

A report has been made public indicating that negotiations at the official level between Quebec and Ottawa about the constitution would have largely gone beyond the discussion stage and extend to questions dealing with protection of French culture in Canada, legislative primacy in immigration matters, regional disparities, proclamation text of a Canadian constitution, and so on. It even appears that the government of Canada would have made specific propositions on those matters to the government of Quebec. Could the Acting Prime Minister confirm or deny this report to the House and sum up the situation in those negotiations?

[Mr. Broadbent.]

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the situation at the moment is that some informal exploratory talks have been going on at official levels. There have been no formal presentations or proposals made to the provinces.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF LESS MATERIALISTIC SOCIETY AND POWERFUL UNIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the Prime Minister in Toronto over the weekend that Canadians are going through a period of reflection and redirection and that since the second world war they have been too busy getting richer, can the Acting Prime Minister tell us if the Prime Minister meant that Canadians should accept a less materialistic society?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it is probably a view shared by many Canadians, and I hope by most members of parliament, that we could have a better society if it were less materialistic.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You are a fine example.

Mr. Sharp: We are very fortunate that in the postwar period there has been a very great increase in the wealth of Canada and in the incomes of Canadians, and we all hope that they can be used to better purpose than at the present time.

Mr. Ritchie: The Prime Minister suggested that labour unions as well as corporations are among the big and powerful; does this mean that the many individual union members are amongst the powerful in the country?

Mr. Sharp: On a number of occasions the Prime Minister has made the point that there has been an increasing concentration of power, and, of course, that is just the opposite of individual responsibilities and individual rights.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REASON FOR USE OF UNITED STATES COASTGUARD HELICOPTERS TO RESCUE FISHERMEN

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Defence and his parliamentary secretary, I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister. It may not be possible for him to answer the question, but I should like to know why it was necessary to call in U.S. coast-guard helicopters to rescue Canadian fishermen last week-