

shortly on what they intend to do with DES, and we will be guided along those lines. It might be of interest also to point out that exports of cattle to the United States were up by 130 per cent over last year as of April 14.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York-Simcoe and the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

\* \* \*

### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### INQUIRY AS TO ESTIMATED COST OF NEW PROGRAM

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Could the minister estimate for the House the cost of the program announced today in its interim and wholly developed stages?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, concerning the cost of the family allowances program, I indicated in my statement that it will exceed \$800 million, taking into account the recovery of taxes by the government and some reductions payments now made in other forms.

As to the balance of the program, it is impossible to give any definite figures right now, at least not before we have discussed the matter with the provinces to determine, if not final figures, at least the range of payments which will enable us to establish exact amounts.

The total amount will depend on the level agreed to between the federal and provincial governments.

\* \* \*

[English]

### ENERGY

#### APPLICATION OF INTERPROVINCIAL PIPE LINE COMPANY TO EXPORT OIL—REQUEST THAT CABINET WITHHOLD APPROVAL UNTIL NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY ESTABLISHED

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question to the Acting Prime Minister arises out of the application which is before the National Energy Board from the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company for additional capacity to ship crude oil to the United States. In view of the fact that the additional capacity is not required for Canadian needs during 1973 or 1974 and the main thrust of the application is for the shipment of some additional 98,000 barrels per day to the United States, I should like to ask the minister, in the event that the National Energy Board approves this application, if the government would give consideration to withholding cabinet approval until such time as the long awaited national energy policy has been designed and implemented?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question appears to be hypothetical and I am not sure that a reply is required.

### Oral Questions

Perhaps the hon. member might ask a supplementary or rephrase the question.

**Mr. Douglas:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it is not hypothetical. We are going to leave here today and by the time we return the National Energy Board may have indeed reached its decision. I am asking if the government will withhold approval until such time as parliament has dealt with the national energy policy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary question does not sound as hypothetical as the first one. Perhaps the minister might like to reply to the hon. member's rephrased question.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will assume it was not hypothetical but that it was a suggestion to the government which will be taken into account.

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we are leaving here today until May 7, could the Acting Prime Minister give the House the assurance that the cabinet will not give approval to the application of the Interprovincial Pipeline Company until at least parliament has reassembled and the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works has had an opportunity of discussing this matter both with the minister and the chairman of the National Energy Board?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that undertaking but I will give serious consideration to the suggestion.

#### PRESIDENT NIXON'S SUGGESTION FOR CO-OPERATION ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is closely related to the one asked by the member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands and is directed to the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who is, I presume, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of President Nixon's statement on energy this morning, has any decision been reached yet by the cabinet on responding to his suggestion for international co-operation on energy, research and development?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** Mr. Speaker, President Nixon made his statement this morning and we have received it just before the question period; we did not have time to examine all implications. At first sight, we are satisfied that this will not change the Canadian position concerning oil exports. With regard to the hon. member's suggestion, I will advise the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.