

Oral Questions

market should increase, then the differential would increase and, therefore, so would the tax return. The principle upon which settlement could be made I have reiterated publicly a number of times, and it is that a large part of the proceeds of the tax should be returned to the producing provinces—

An hon. Member: One hundred per cent.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—for the purpose of stimulating additional energy supplies available for Canadians in all parts of the country.

Mr. Knight: In view of the minister's answer that he is moving—

Mr. Stanfield: I wish the minister would answer a few questions.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, if I have to talk louder I assure you that I can.

Some hon. Members: Louder!

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of his statement that he is trying to establish a two-price system related to the use of fuels in Canada, can the minister inform the House if he has been in touch with Imperial Oil and other major oil companies in view of their desire to increase prices on the domestic market in Canada, and is the minister prepared to curtail any increases in those prices in light of the excessive profits which have been occurring in that industry?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we have had requests, as indicated in the Prime Minister's statement, for increases in product prices in the eastern Canada market resulting from increases in the landed cost of oil. No decision has been taken in that regard.

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[Translation]

FEDERAL PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS**CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE FOLLOWING QUEBEC ELECTION**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Since the premier of Quebec stated last week that he would seek the holding of a constitutional conference if he is re-elected on October 29, would the minister tell us if the government would favour calling such a conference?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it has been quite clear for a number of years that the government of Canada is prepared to sit down with the provinces, and has already sat down, and if there seems to be some promise, some expectation of a useful

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

revision of the constitution, we will certainly be prepared to participate again.

[Translation]

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance.

In view of the contradictory opinions expressed with respect to the budget presented by the Parti Québécois, would the minister inform us if he intends to comment upon it publicly, or have it done by analysts from his department?

Mr. Speaker: I doubt that the hon. member's question is in order. I doubt that it comes under the administrative jurisdiction of the federal Minister of Finance.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO NEW PROGRAM**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Could he tell the House whether the new departmental program concerning Quebec economic expansion will be officially announced before October 29?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I would think not, Mr. Speaker.

SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS TO YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the minister on the same question which I have asked him several times before. Since he has had the matter under consideration for many months, can he now inform the House, and particularly residents above the sixtieth parallel, when DREE is going to be applied nationally to those parts of Canada as well as to the rest?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I thoroughly agree with the proposition posed in the hon. member's question. My colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and I and our officials have been working on some mechanism which would achieve the result the hon. member is seeking.

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BUGGING AND WIRETAPPING**COMMITTEE STUDY OF BILL**

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the interest of the House today in bugging and wiretapping, would the minister indicate whether the wiretapping bill is being held up because the government has instructed the chairman of