

Resources. With regard to the minister's September 13 request to oil and gas retailers not to increase prices, has the minister set up some monitoring agency to check prices of automobile and heating fuels and have any retailers increased prices since September 4?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the House that I did not see, under the present arrangements or those contemplated, any way in which the government could monitor prices at the retail level. Except through the efforts of the major producers through wholly owned chains, at the retail gas level this largely concerns independently owned organizations and there are no general monitoring arrangements to cover individual decisions.

Mr. Symes: In view of the fact that gasoline prices have been raised since September 4 by two companies in the Sudbury region and other gasoline retailers are threatening to follow suit because the majors are not giving them a fair share of recent price increases, what action does the minister propose to ensure that retailers and distributors comply with the minister's request?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): We would propose no legislative action. If the hon. member has a specific case which he thinks may be in violation of the law, I would be delighted to hear from him.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will attempt to make some headway. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Peace River on a supplementary and then the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham.

OIL SURTAX—INTRODUCTION OF WAYS AND MEANS MOTION

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether it is his intention to follow proper parliamentary practice and introduce a ways and means motion with regard to the proposed surtax?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I believe that would be the correct practice.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—INQUIRY AS TO NEW COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT RESTRICTIONS—POSSIBILITY OF BANNING SPECULATION IN FOOD FUTURES

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister on the government's anti-inflation program generally. In view of the Prime Minister's own statement in the House two weeks ago yesterday during the special session that part of the government's anti-inflation policy was the new stringent restrictions under the Combines Investigation Act, and in view of the fact his minister said they had passed through cabinet and had been drafted, I think we are

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entitled to ask the Prime Minister when we will have the details of this part of the government's program?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As soon as we introduce it for first reading, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, the purpose, of course, in my asking that question was to then ask when will first reading take place? I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In view of the statement elsewhere yesterday that government action is required at both the Canadian and United States federal levels to ban speculation in futures of food commodities, could the Prime Minister say whether the government is considering taking any action along that line?

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot answer that question now, Mr. Speaker.

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FOOD PRICES

REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDIES ON PRODUCTS MOVING INTO NORTHERN AREAS

Mr. Elias Nesdoly (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that milk is over \$1 a quart, potatoes are 40 cents a pound and eggs are at \$1.12 a dozen in certain areas of northern Saskatchewan and since similar situations exist in other areas of Canada's north to a lesser or greater degree, for example, eggs at \$1.90—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask a question. He is not supposed to use a preamble to convey information to hon. members. Would he kindly come to the question.

Mr. Nesdoly: Is the government considering transportation subsidies for food products moving into northern areas so that northerners can have the benefit of food prices paid by Canadian people living in the more populous areas of this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I take that by way of representation. I hope the representation will be made to the government of Saskatchewan which is more directly concerned with this matter.

Mr. Nesdoly: In view of the fact that the recently announced subsidies are of infinitesimally less benefit to Canada's northerners, and there is much of the north not in Saskatchewan, what measures does the government intend to take to alleviate this situation so that northerners can enjoy the benefits of reasonable food prices which they certainly have not had in the last 20 years or so?

Mr. Trudeau: Surely the question of prices within a province comes under provincial jurisdiction.