

Oral Questions

ing, with the result that the construction cost of an average dwelling has increased by between \$1,000 and \$1,200? If so, would the minister propose very soon either the reduction or elimination of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for his representation. Of course, I would analyse that situation against the revenue consequences to the government.

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ENERGY

ORDER STOPPING EXPORT OF MEDIUM CRUDE OIL FROM SASKATCHEWAN TO UNITED STATES—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources if he has some information on the medium crude exports from Saskatchewan about which I asked last week.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my information is that it is a question of the heavy crude involved in this situation. The board is expecting an increase in the export of heavy crude in this current month and, indeed, has sent to the various normal export licensees proposals, for the first time, to differentiate between light and heavy crude in order to put this Saskatchewan product on a sounder basis as far as export is concerned.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

ALLEGED ANTI-ESPIONAGE GROUP IN QUEBEC REPORTING TO PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Would the minister care to comment on whether he or his colleague, the Minister of Justice, or the government in general have any information on the alleged 12-man anti-espionage group that reports to the minister of justice of the province of Quebec?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have no information with respect to that group.

Mr. Lawrence: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might ask a question. He will appreciate that what he is doing now is asking the minister to comment. Comments should be made by way of statement on motions but if the hon. member is seeking information he should ask a question tending in that direction.

Mr. Lawrence: I did ask for information, Mr. Speaker. If the minister has no information on it, because anti-espion-

[Mr. Higson.]

age is not normally a matter handled by provincial law enforcement agencies I wonder if the minister would make an investigation and report to the House?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I shall do that, although it is a little vague as to exactly what group the member has in mind.

Mr. Forrestall: Is there more than one?

Mr. Allmand: I might say we do have consultations with the Quebec government and other provincial governments with respect to security and police matters, but we do it through their responsible ministers and from time to time with the premiers.

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PROTECTION OF PRIVACY BILL

GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION RESPECTING INTRODUCTION OF MOTION TO REJECT SENATE AMENDMENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, this question could be put to the Minister of Justice but it might be better if I were to address it to the Prime Minister or to the government House leader. In view of the fact the government's responsibility, indeed its answerability, is to the elected members of this House of Commons, and in view of the fact the provision that the Senate wants to cut out of the wiretapping bill is one on which this House voted precisely, is the government considering introducing an appropriate motion for the rejection of the Senate amendment to Bill C-176?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the exact course of conduct with regard to Bill C-176 is under consideration.

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PENSIONS

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROGRAM TO INCREASE ANNUITIES TO EX-SERVICEMEN

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. Bill C-220 was passed to increase the annuities paid to ex-servicemen in order to help them meet the rising cost of living. The answer given to my question No. 3206 at page 8664 of *Hansard* indicates that this amendment will apply only to 3.6 per cent of retired servicemen. Would the President of the Treasury Board now consider sponsoring further amendments to the act so that it will apply to more than a small fraction of ex-servicemen and women?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I shall be glad to look at that representation.