

*Oral Questions*

Can he give us indications on the results of the investigation undertaken on shipwrecks and losses of life in the fishing industries that recently took place on the Pacific coast?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I expect to receive the report tomorrow. If so, I will very soon be in a position to answer the hon. member.

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[English]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****REASON FOR ALLEGED INQUIRY BY PRIME MINISTER CONCERNING MEMBER OF STAFF OF MEMBER FOR LEEDS**

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has he, or anyone acting on his behalf, instructed a person or persons in his office or in the Privy Council office to make investigations or inquiries concerning any members of the staff of the office of the member for Leeds and, if so, why?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I did ask someone on my staff to make sure that the hon. member for Leeds could outswim a shark.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cossitt:** What are the reasons for someone announcing himself as J. G. Richard of the Privy Council Office making such inquiries as recently as last Thursday, including a strange telephone call to the National Parole Board?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Cossitt:** Does this represent a new government policy in dealing with the right of democratic dissent?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I never could take a question by the hon. member for Leeds seriously and I do not take this one seriously.

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**FINANCE****PRICE OF CRUDE OIL ON WHICH MAY BUDGET BASED—REASON FOR CALLING PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE IF GOVERNMENT TO SET OIL PRICE BY LEGISLATION**

**Mr. Peter Bawden (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the price of oil is a vital ingredient in the preparation of a budget, will the minister say whether his proposed May budget will be based on an increase in the price of crude oil, and if so what price is to be used?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** If, before a budget is brought down, there is no agreement or action with regard to setting the price of oil or the related price of gas, either the budget would have to be delayed or I would have to make some assumptions.

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

**Mr. Bawden:** My supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. Since the government is pressing on with Bill C-32, under the terms of which a price can be imposed upon the provinces, will the right hon. gentleman tell us why it was necessary to go to the trouble and expense of calling a further meeting of first ministers if he and his ministers have already reached a decision on the price of crude oil and used that price in the budget?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The hon. member may have noticed that we did not press on with this bill in the House until we realized it was impossible for the ten provincial premiers to agree amongst themselves. It was only in the face of the failure of negotiations the other day to reach an agreement that we are now availing ourselves of the legislative powers which the constitution entitles us to have in the area of interprovincial and international trade so that we can exercise those powers should further efforts to reach a consensus be unsuccessful.

**Mr. Bawden:** My final supplementary is directed to the Minister of Finance. Was the Minister of Finance saying, in response to my question, that the government might wait until after the first ministers have agreed upon a price for crude oil before bringing down a budget?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I was saying that as time elapses I shall have to make a judgment as to the best way to proceed.

**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE EXEMPTION**

**Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance and arises from the hon. gentleman's announcement that he intends to bring down a budget soon. Has he considered raising the employment in agriculture exemption from \$250 or 25 days to \$1,000 or 60 days?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** I will consider the hon. member's question as a representation, Mr. Speaker.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REASON FOR FAILURE OF MINISTER TO VISIT EGYPT AND ISRAEL DURING TRIP—INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL VISIT EGYPT AND ISRAEL**

**Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Having regard to the growing tension in the Middle East and the presence of Canadian peacekeeping forces in the area, could the right hon. gentleman explain to the House why the Secretary of State for External Affairs did not include Egypt or Egypt and Israel in his current tour?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The current tour was organized with a different purpose in mind than trying to reconcile Egypt and Israel.