

Oral Questions

Minister of National Health and Welfare last spring, he would know how the government deals with this proposal and other similar ones.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**THUNDER BAY—EFFECT OF FAILURE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK ON MOVEMENT OF FREIGHT TRAINS**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that it is also reported that pickets are still active at Thunder Bay I should like to ask the Minister of Labour whether freight trains are being assembled and moving cargo either east or west at this time.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): I am not aware of any movement in or out of Thunder Bay at the moment.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER MEASURES ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER TO COMBAT INFLATION CONSTITUTE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is supplementary to the original trend of questions directed to the Prime Minister. Does the program announced by the Prime Minister today with regard to inflation constitute the so-called contingency plan which the government was holding under wraps until the situation with regard to cost of living got serious enough to justify bringing it forward?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, at the time I referred to a contingency plan this was not the particular one to which I was referring.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**YOUTH LIAISON PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON STATUS AND FUNDING**

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs. Could the minister advise the House of the present status of the Youth Liaison Program of his department and could he advise whether Treasury Board has approved or rejected the funding of that program.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, the situation remains the same. The program is working out as expected. As far as the procedure mentioned by the hon. member is concerned, I shall inquire and report to him.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[English]

FINANCE**INTEREST RATES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the minister's statement last Friday that our short and medium-term interest rates are two to three points lower than those in the United States, would the minister inform the House how he reconciles his statement with our mortgage rate structure in this country where mortgages cannot be written for terms of longer than five years and yet we find that NHA rates in Canada are 9.5 per cent—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that a question asked in those terms is debate and is not in order.

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ENERGY**SUGGESTED CONSTRUCTION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES**

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and refers to the statement of the Prime Minister. In view of the announcement of the Prime Minister that the government intends to build an oil pipeline to Montreal, has the government consulted the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Alberta in relation to the complexities and problems about volume, supply, markets and price?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in the discussions we have had with all the relevant provinces, as a result of the energy analysis, we broached with them among other things the security of supply problem for the eastern Canadian market and, particularly with the officials of the province of Quebec, considerations that might lead to the construction of the pipeline into Montreal. I should say that the particular problem that is contained in the Prime Minister's statement was, of course, not discussed although it was communicated to the relevant provinces before the statement was made in the House.

SUGGESTED CONSTRUCTION OF OIL PIPELINE FROM SAULT SAINTE MARIE TO MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. My question is still for information. In the minister's answer earlier he mentioned the pipeline from Montreal to Toronto. Now, I am asking whether the plan to build a reversible pipeline through Sault Sainte Marie, the northern route to Montreal, is abandoned?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Sir, by no means. Obviously from a financial standpoint the continuation of the existing pipeline facilities from the Ontario market into Montreal