

Oral Questions

minister assist in the present discussions between Massey-Ferguson and White Farm Equipment with a view to having Massey-Ferguson take over the White Farm operation in Brantford to rationalize the two industries and save 1,200 Canadian jobs?

An hon. Member: Wall to wall socialism.

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, we are very much aware of the possibilities connected with White Motor and White Farm Equipment. This is certainly something which can be looked at in terms of a potential over-all solution.

An hon. Member: What about Petro-Canada?

Mr. Gray: I want to say to my hon. friends that if my answers had meant nothing, there would be no possibility today for the survival of Massey-Ferguson and the 6,000 jobs there, and no possibility in turn for any assistance for White Motor.

Fortunately for my hon. friend, my answer and those of the government with respect to the farm machinery industry have meant a lot more than nothing. They have meant the potential for the survival of jobs in this important industry in the interests of the entire Canadian economy.

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● (1440)

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

INQUIRY WHETHER AMENDMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED

Mr. Peter Lang (Kitchener): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Could the minister inform the House whether there are any proposed measures to strengthen anti-combines legislation and, in particular, whether freedom of the press can be protected from monopolistic takeovers?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Yes, Madam Speaker. Indeed, the amendments to the Combines Investigation Act are long overdue. I hope to be in a position to bring forward appropriate legislation early next year.

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THE BUDGET

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. We all know that his budget did not help the low and middle-income Canadian, and believe it or not there are low and middle-income Canadians under the age of 65 who are not provided for by the \$35 a month increase that this government likes to pretend is the panacea to all the problems of low and middle-income Canadians. I want to ask the minister why he did not

listen to the pleas and representations made to him by students, young people from low and moderate income families, who need help to continue their education or retraining. Why did he turn a deaf ear to them and provide nothing in this budget that would help?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): In direct reply to the question, Madam Speaker, I have listened to all the representations and have attempted to put together a budget that is in the interests of the broad community, including all sectors in Canada.

Mr. McDermid: The minister stated in his budget that significant savings will be achieved when the transfer agreements come up for renewal with the provinces, which I believe is in 1982. Will the minister assure this House and the young people of Canada that any action the government takes in this area will not place additional burdens on the youth of Canada by causing drastic increases in tuition fees by cutbacks of moneys for post-secondary education?

Mr. MacEachen: What I provided in the budget, Madam Speaker, was that before the agreements with the provinces expire we would, as is customary, enter into negotiations with the provinces, and that it was my intention to secure savings in the renegotiation of these broad transfers to the provinces. That is a declaration of intent and that is my purpose. Until the negotiations begin and until some results are achieved, it will not be my intention to indicate in advance the results of those negotiations, except to say that I intend to be very respectful of the progress that has been made in this country as a result of very substantial federal support to a variety of programs supported through transfers. Having said that, I do not intend to deal specifically with, and forecast an attitude on, every item that might come up in the negotiations.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SPEAKER AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF BELIZE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Madam Speaker: I am sure the House would like to recognize in our gallery the Hon. Charles Hyde, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Belize, accompanied by the Deputy Speaker, the Hon. V. Castillo.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSING

INQUIRY WHETHER NATIVE AND RURAL HOUSING PROGRAM WILL BE REVIVED

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister of housing. It is with regard to a program which the government implemented in