

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member will agree that the question is argumentative.

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ENERGY

SUGGESTED REVIEW OF DECISION TO BUILD OIL PIPELINE FROM SARNIA TO MONTREAL

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources concerning the proposed Sarnia-Montreal pipeline. Since the extension of the existing Sarnia-Toronto pipeline could meet the immediate needs of the Montreal market and since the first leg, from Sault Ste. Marie to Montreal, of the projected all-Canadian route could meet future requirements of the Montreal market, does the minister intend to review and reassess the government's decision to go ahead with the Sarnia-Montreal pipeline? If not, why not?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, to repeat to the hon. gentleman answers I have given him twice before, the Sarnia-Montreal extension will provide not only for part of the needs of the Montreal market in 1976 but will provide a strategic ability to expand the pipeline capacity in the event of an interruption in the future. Under those circumstances, the suggestion of the hon. member really advocates less strategic reserve for the immediate future and a delay of a prolonged nature.

Mr. Symes: Since it is estimated that the future Montreal market will involve a demand of some 500,000 barrels a day and since this is not expected to be met in the next two or three years, and since it could be met by an extension of the pipeline from Sault Ste. Marie, does the minister intend to review the whole project?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The hon. gentleman is suggesting we should build two pipelines where one would do, and that does not seem to make sense to me.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

MEASURES TO DEAL WITH INFLATION

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Noting that recent statistics suggest that the average weekly earnings of Canadians—the earnings of people who derive most of their income from salaries—are still rising at a substantially lower rate than the rate of increase in the consumer price index, may I ask the Minister of Finance, given the fact that we have not had a budget for 14 months and given the fact that we are not promised a budget very soon, whether he has any ideas or any proposals to present to parliament soon to deal with the underlying problems of inflation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): The government has continually responded to the problems of

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inflation, specifically by increasing the supply of food, by increasing the capacity of the industrial sector of the country and by protecting those Canadians whose incomes are most vulnerable and who are least able to protect themselves. As to a budgetary response, that will be forthcoming when the budget is presented.

Mr. Gillies: Given the fact that the selective price control program the government is now bringing in, backed by massive subsidies, is not working, I am wondering whether any specific measures will be introduced before the budget is brought down to deal with the problem Canadians are facing in the short run. In the long run, obviously we can cope with it, but in the short run what is the government going to do about this problem which is so serious for so many Canadians at the present time?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, if the rules allowed I could recite once again to the hon. member the series of specific measures already taken in terms of increasing disposable incomes, subsidies, reduction in personal taxes, reduction in commodity taxes and so on. But I know the rules will not allow me to expand on that aspect.

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AGRICULTURE

DAIRYING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON LONG-TERM POLICY

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. In light of the many speeches and statements made by the Minister of Agriculture over the past few months dealing with a long-term dairy policy, an announcement of which was to be made by April 1, and because last Friday's statement by the minister with respect to long-term policy mentioned only a consultation process between the Canadian Dairy Council and producers, is the minister prepared to make a definitive policy statement about long-term policies for the dairy industry and, if so, when may we expect to hear such a statement?

● (1430)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware of the fact that we do believe in consultation, and I am sure he has read the Canadian Federation of Agriculture's brief asking for more consultation. We have a proposal to offer to these people who are concerned with the dairy industry in Canada and we are ready to proceed with it. We have directed the Canadian Dairy Commission to proceed in that fashion and we hope they will very shortly.

Mr. Jarvis: In light of the recommendations made by various agricultural groups for a five-year dairy policy, as long ago as 1970 by the federal task force and most lately by the Food Prices Review Board, for whom I know the minister has the greatest respect, is the minister's only response to these demands to authorize the CDC to consult with producers, or does the minister have parts of a long-term policy that he can reveal to us now?