

*Oral Questions***LABOUR CONDITIONS****STRIKE OF PULP AND PAPER WORKERS—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO HAVE NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED**

Mr. Gilbert Parent (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the paper mills in the Niagara Peninsula have been on strike since the beginning of July, and bearing in mind that no meaningful negotiations have taken place for weeks, would the minister advise the House whether he proposes to take any action to get the employers and the strikers back to the negotiating table?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Technically, of course, this dispute falls within provincial jurisdiction. However, I have urged the employers in this particular case to desist from their present destructive strategy which is hurting the economy and sit down with the employees in question in an endeavour to arrive at a resolution of this issue, arrive at a collective agreement, and if necessary submit it to the Anti-Inflation Board.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES**SUGGESTED ARRANGEMENTS FOR EARLY DELIVERY OF FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHEQUES**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services? In view of the fact that family allowance cheques—namely one cheque for November and December—are said to be in the various provincial capitals, could not arrangements be made for those cheques to be delivered right away, and an order be given to the banks that they could be cashed right away, thus avoiding the danger of scalpers exploiting the recipients of these cheques?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, we had of course provided for the distribution of those cheques on December 4 in the whole country, except in Toronto where this distribution would take place on December 5. However, I will certainly look more carefully into this problem, in light of the hon. member's remarks.

From the administrative point of view, it would be extremely difficult to distribute the cheques earlier but I will surely look into it with sympathy.

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[English]

INDUSTRY**DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION—INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES TO STIMULATE**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Statistics Canada having just reported that the index of industrial production took another sharp drop in the third quarter, and that in the last month of that quarter the index declined at an annual rate

[Mr. Whelan.]

of 23 per cent, would the minister advise the House when he will be announcing to this chamber the steps he and his department are planning to take to reverse this serious, and, now, longstanding trend?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I do not know of any specific statement I will be making in the House. With regard to the most recent figures, though, the hon. member will appreciate that while I do not quarrel with the premise of his question, namely, that industrial production is not what it should be, the most recent figures are, I believe, a result of the very lengthy shutdown in the pulp and paper industry. I am considering a number of productivity proposals and I have been meeting, as the hon. member may know, with various business groups—there is to be another meeting tomorrow evening—and out of this will hopefully come some indication as to means of improving productivity. The real answer, of course, would be a major upturn in the United States market which would be of substantial advantage to us in enabling us to sell more to that country.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—APPLICABILITY OF GUIDELINE TO PROVINCIALLY OPERATED UTILITIES**

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance arising from the question asked by my hon. friend from St. John's East. I gathered from the minister's answer that the provincial marketing boards will be asked to assume jurisdiction to roll back any price increases but that the Anti-Inflation Board will be carrying out the monitoring. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House whether there has been any agreement entered into with respect to this matter, and could he also inform us whether the same principle would be applied to the provincially-operated utilities—hydro commissions, telephone companies and so on—which are engaged in the marketing business in the provincial sphere?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): The hon. gentleman did not understand me correctly. The suggestion has been made by way of a document which they will be considering tomorrow, that in the same way as the governing or parent body for federal marketing agencies, the National Farm Products Marketing Council, will have the responsibility at the federal level of carrying through effective decisions with regard to a marketing agency, the same kind of parent body should take similar action where it exists in a province, or there should be action by the provincial government itself. In addition, we have proposed to the provinces that goods and services supplied by provincial agencies should be monitored in the same way, for example, Ontario Hydro or the Ontario Liquor Control Board. I would have to say there has been some discussion between the provinces and the federal government as to the manner in which these agencies should be monitored and restricted. This will be another subject for discussion at the meeting tomorrow.