

Oral Questions

will continue to do so. There is to be a meeting of the international energy agency next week at which I will be present; there will be an opportunity to discuss the prospects of an increase at that time and the possible implications for member countries.

Mr. MacLean: Do I understand the minister as meaning that if the world price of oil is increased, government measures will be effective in preventing such an increase from affecting the Atlantic provinces?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Consumers in the Atlantic provinces would be protected under the arrangement for a single price for all Canadians; they have been protected so far by this kind of subvention and it would continue to be applicable, ensuring protection from increases above the single price across Canada which might occur from time to time.

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INDUSTRY**WHITBY TIRE COMPANY—LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES—
GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the minister's attention been drawn to the announcement by the Whitby Tire Company, purchased by Firestone from Dunlop a year ago—at which time they announced they intended to increase the work force by between 250 and 300 workers—that half the work force, some 290 workers, are to be laid off for an indefinite period? Has the minister's attention been drawn to this matter and, if so, what action has he taken?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): As hon. members know, I have just returned from a trip outside the country on trade business—this is the first time this matter has come to my attention. I will look into it.

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FINANCE**ALLEGATION BY WHITBY TIRE COMPANY EMPLOYEES
LAY-OFF CAUSED BY REDUCTION OF TARIFF ON IMPORTED
TIRES**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Might I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance and ask him whether, at the same time as his colleague is looking into this question, he will examine the claim of the union that the reason for the lay-offs is not the slowdown in production of automobiles but the reduction in the tariff from 17½ per cent to 12 per cent which has meant an increase in the importation of tires from the United States from 650,000 to almost 5.5 million in four years.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will look into that.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

[Translation]

HEALTH**POSSIBILITY OF PROGRAM RELATED TO ABUSE OF DRUGS
FOR ALCOHOLICS**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

A few months ago, the press indicated that the federal government had approved a program on drug abuse, such as drugs prescribed to alcoholics. Can the minister tell us whether such a program exists and to what extent it is being implemented?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no such program exists. However, I should like to study the hon. member's question in detail to see if I did not miss part of it, but I doubt that such a specific program exists as mentioned in the hon. member's question.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GOVERNMENT ACTION WITH REGARD TO STATEMENT BY
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR JAMAICA CONCERNING TORONTO
POLICE**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, before I ask this question I should like to inquire of the President of the Privy Council, as leader of the House, whether the Prime Minister will be here before orders of the day are concluded, or whether he will be here today at all.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): The Prime Minister will be here for government orders. I cannot be sure whether he will be here before that time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: This question arises out of a matter I brought before the House the day before yesterday in connection with the dastardly attack which was made on the administration of justice by the High Commissioner for Jamaica. If ever there was a racist statement, there was one when he stated: "I am extremely dissatisfied with the administration of justice when there are clashes between my people and the police". That statement is incapable of any other interpretation but that there is one law for people of one colour and a different law for those of another. That is not Canadian in any way and it is a statement which ought not to have been made.

I put this question the day before yesterday to the Prime Minister. He had not heard about this matter. No answer was given yesterday in the House. Imagine my surprise—not my surprise, really, because apparently it has become a way of life—when the subject was referred to in the press yesterday instead of being answered in the House. Possibly we could get an answer now from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is an issue of consequence and one which will cause a great deal of damage throughout the Caribbean to the reputation of Canada for respecting the equality of all, regardless of colour.