

Inquiries of the Ministry

that if there is any weakness in the act or law it lies in the provincial jurisdiction. We are suggesting now that perhaps we should be concentrating in that area, with the co-operation of the provinces of course, in order to bring an end to this type of situation.

Mr. Rowland: May I suggest to the minister that he take a look at Bill C-187 and see if that might solve the problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is a representation, not a question.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I have a question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the obvious concern of Her Majesty's loyal opposition about the TAPS tanker route and the departure of the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich for greener pastures, can the Prime Minister advise who will be the minister who will be taking over the responsibilities heretofore exercised by the hon. member?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that the opposition has a high regard for the future of the Liberal party in British Columbia. We share that regard.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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TAXATION**SALES TAX REMISSION TO GREAT CANADIAN OIL SANDS LIMITED—SUGGESTED RETURN IN VIEW OF PROFITS—OTHER REMISSIONS**

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance arising out of some questions I asked him some time ago with respect to the \$6 million remission to Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited. In view of the fact the latest report from that company shows that in its last fiscal year it made profits of \$152 million, would the Minister of Finance now ask the company to return the \$6 million remitted to it by the government on pleas of having lost money?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, those were not the grounds on which remission was made, and similar treatment was accorded that company by the government of Alberta.

Mr. Lewis: My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago I asked the Prime Minister whether he would inform the House about any other grants or remissions which Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited had received from other departments of the government and he said he would. Perhaps he has the information now.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do, Mr. Speaker. I have had the information for almost a month [Mr. Mackasey.]

now. I have to refresh my memory and see what the information is in detail or else read a long paragraph to the House. In short, Mr. Speaker, may I say that no other department has made any grants of the nature in which the hon. member is interested.

[Later:]

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I did not hear the Prime Minister correctly but he seemed to say that there were no grants of such a nature as might interest me. Would he be good enough to tell me exactly what that means? Were there no grants or were there other grants in which the Prime Minister thinks I am not interested?

Mr. Trudeau: What I meant to exclude were such programs as PAIT and other programs which apply to all industries. I am not certain that there was no such program applying to that particular company, but on the basis of the inquiries I have made the answer is that no grant has been made by the government to Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited or Sun Oil Company Limited or any subsidiary of these companies. This is the answer to the question as the hon. member asked it, but as I said it does not exclude the possibility of other programs that apply across the country for which perhaps some demand has been made by this particular company.

SUGGESTED REMISSION OF SALES TAX TO BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker. Is the government considering the remission to British Columbia Hydro of the same tax in respect of the millions of dollars it has spent on developments over the relevant period?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I do not see any immediate connection between the two subjects, Mr. Speaker.

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GRAIN**WHEAT—SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON PRICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice in his capacity as minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the strong statement made by 11 major United States and Canadian farm organizations which met at St. Paul with reference to wheat prices, namely, that recent prices for wheat have not been satisfactory to farmers and have not given them any financial benefits from the increasing world wheat markets, and their suggestion that we should press for an international agreement under which prices would be fixed that would bring the farmers a reasonable return, would the minister say what the present situation is, whether the government of Canada is pressing for an international wheat agreement, and what are the hopes for early signature being secured by both the producer and consumer nations?