

Oral Questions

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the department is assisting. We have been fully informed of the oil spill but I cannot give the details of the exact number of personnel or the equipment being used.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question relating to the same matter. May I ask either the Minister of Transport or the Minister of the Environment whether they can inform the House as to what measures are being taken to contain this spill, clean up the damage and compensate those who have suffered, and what action is being taken against the offending ship?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, it would be a long list. A number of experts from several departments are in the area giving advice. Equipment is on its way or already operating on the beaches around Alert Bay. It is a serious accident and is being treated as such.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—AVAILABILITY OF
ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

Since the funds the Department of Manpower and Immigration has been provided with for the implementation of the Local Initiatives Program seem almost depleted, would the minister tell the House if he is willing to make additional credits available to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration so that he could be in a position to accept a larger number of projects in order to alleviate the unemployment problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Once again, I am under the impression that this question has been asked almost every day this week. However, if the minister is willing to answer it, I will recognize him.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Bellechasse is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, it is precisely because the problem is most serious that this matter is so often brought back for consideration. I am very serious when I ask this question and I think the Minister of Finance is quite willing to answer even if it is only to give us a little hope.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair gave the Minister of Finance leave to answer that question a while ago. I do not object to the minister answering it but he himself has not deemed proper to do it. If he is willing to do so now he may have the floor.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am always ready to answer questions asked by my friend the hon. member for Bellechasse and as always I shall very seriously consider his representations.

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[English]

FINANCE

INCREASE IN WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX—INQUIRY AS TO
DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNOR OF BANK OF CANADA ON
CHANGING MONEY SUPPLY

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister tell the House whether, in light of the recent statistics indicating an increase in the wholesale price index, he has had any conversations with the governor of the Bank of Canada with regard to changing the money supply?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, Sir.

Mr. Gillies: Does the minister intend to have such conversations?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I meet the governor once a week.

Mr. Gillies: Is it the position of the government that the rate of increase in the money supply has an effect on the rate of inflation in this country?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the rate of increase in the money supply in the early part of the year, as the hon. gentleman knows, was quite high. The recent rate of increase will bring the rate for the year 1972 somewhere between 12 and 14 per cent.

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● (1120)

[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

OLD AGE PENSIONS—ASSURANCE RESPECTING
INCREASE

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Can he give the House, as did his colleague the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the assurance that a substantial increase will be announced shortly in respect of old age pensions?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I always support my colleagues.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe will recognize that the question has already been asked. The Chair objected to it yesterday or the day before because the question anticipates a bill to be presented to the House in due course. In that sense the question is out of order. If the hon. member wishes to put a supplementary, he may do so.