

forthcoming, and that certain work was in the hands of a task force to determine the exact form of port structures in Canada. This is still the case.

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MULTICULTURALISM

REASON FOR FAILURE TO FILL VACANCIES ON NATIONAL COUNCIL AND HOLD CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, 1975

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for multiculturalism. In view of the fact that approximately one-third of the positions on the National Consultative Multicultural Council became vacant as of last May, can the minister explain why reappointments have not been made to this council?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that there has been some considerable thinking going on within the council as to whether a council composed of 101 members is not a little unwieldy. The feeling is that this number should be reduced gradually, and under that principle more appointments will be made within the number to which the hon. member just referred, hopefully very soon.

Mr. Yewchuk: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that in 1973, when the first national conference on multiculturalism was held, the government took the position that a conference should be held every two years, which means that there should be have been one in October 1975, can the minister indicate what the reasons were for not having held this conference as originally planned? Was it shortage of money, lack of interest, or a change in government policy on this subject?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member will realize that there have been many more meetings than usual, both regionally and nationally, of the 101 members going into the annual report. We are now coming to grips with some revisions to policy, so we thought it would be best to have a conference some time in February, and that is the plan now.

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● (1440)

ENERGY

OIL AND NATURAL GAS—TIMETABLE FOR PHASING OUT EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicate to this House when the government plans to phase out exports of gas and oil to the United States, or does he go to Washington to make these statements before advising this Chamber? What is the government's long or short-range planning?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, that is a very general question. As to the first part of it in respect of oil, I have already answered that by indicating I will be tabling in the House

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the report of the National Energy Board on oil. As to the second part of the question on natural gas exports, the National Energy Board produced a report in May or June of this year in which it made clear that we were running into an increasing supply-demand situation and that there was a possibility we might have to reduce our natural gas exports to the United States, not over this winter but the following winter.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, the minister has committed himself by making a statement in Washington without advising this Chamber, and I think that is wrong.

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[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—MAXIMUM WAGE INCREASE—METHOD OF CONTROL

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Considering the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on control measures and taking into account Bill C-73 which is in the public interest, I would like to ask the minister whether the amount of \$2,400 is viewed by the government as an average increase or as the maximum increase for all groups of workers?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it is the maximum for all wage earners.

Mr. La Salle: I have a supplementary question.

Since the Pepin-Plumtre Board announced yesterday the creation of a flying squad to check the increases we have experienced since the government's announcement, will the minister, in view of the provisions of Bill C-73, provide for the setting of a mechanism regarding those increases with respect to the implementation of a bill to be known in a few weeks? Besides will the government have the power to roll back prices that have already been upped in view of the contents of the bill?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the bill has provisions that allow changing the level of compensation in cases where an increase exceeds the guidelines. As I said to the leader of the New Democratic Party, we are discussing with the provinces the matter of controlling the income of professionals. The program guidelines will apply to all wage earners depending, of course, on their jobs.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM SYNCRUDE PLANT—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STANDARDS

Mr. Stuart Leggett (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of the Environment relates to the Syncrude project and the widespread concern about sulphur dioxide pollution from that project. In view of the minister's statement in July 1974 that the environmental impact study done by the Syncrude companies was unreal-