

Mr. Gillies: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister issued any instructions to the chairman of the National Energy Board to ensure that such apparent conflict will not happen again?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that upon reflection the hon. member would realize that a minister of energy, mines and resources would be in a very delicate position in advising the National Energy Board, which was set up by Parliament as an independent body. If the minister were to start issuing instructions to the head of the National Energy Board it would seem to me he would be open, and the government would be open, to the criticism of interfering with the very independence which parliament set up in the Act for the National Energy Board.

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ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF BACKGROUND PAPERS ON WHICH DECISION TO CONTINUE PROGRAM MAY BE BASED

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (Yrok-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. As the Speech from the Throne contemplates that the provinces will be asked to enter into consultations on renewal of agreements under the government's present wages and prices control program, would the minister, within the commitment to be open as promised in the Speech from the Throne, lay before the House and the provinces all background papers that argue for continuation of the program beyond March 31, 1977, as termination of present agreements with most provinces is to occur on that date?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the date we look forward to is, of course, April 1, 1977. I will be glad to make available to both the provinces and the House the analysis which would lead to a continuation of the program.

Mr. Stevens: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister could indicate when he will lay this documentation before the House and the provinces? Could he also indicate the term of the extension to which he is asking the provinces to agree? Is it a further 18 months or even longer?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we would anticipate this discussion would commence in the new year when we would obviously have more specific details. As the hon. member knows, the Act provides a continuation for two years more.

SUGGESTED DELETION OF PROVISION ALLOWING EXTENSION OF PROGRAM BEYOND 1978

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): A final supplementary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. As the Prime Minister at least hinted last Thursday that under no circumstances would the control program go beyond the end of 1978, could he

Oral Questions

indicate if he is willing to cause Bill C-73 to be amended to ensure that under no circumstances may the controls program be extended beyond the end of 1978 by, in particular, deleting the provision that allows the program to be extended simply by order in council?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the hon. member's suggestion into consideration. Certainly, it is our intention not to go beyond the end of December, 1978. If that would reassure the House and get the opposition parties to co-operate with us in the implementation of the program while it exists, I would certainly be prepared to give that undertaking.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTION BY HOUSEWIVES

Mrs. Ursula Appoloni (York South): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Are we to understand from the reference to the Canada Pension Plan in yesterday's Speech from the Throne that the contribution of housewives to the social and economic well-being of our country is finally going to be recognized in real and concrete terms?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this provision is certainly going to mark significant progress in recognizing the contribution of housewives to our economy. I hope, as time goes by, the government will be able to introduce more measures of this nature to recognize that contribution.

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● (1440)

CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION

REASON FOR NOT REHIRING MR. RUDNICKI—ALLEGED BLACKLISTING OF SOME FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. The Supreme Court of Ontario now having concluded that Mr. Walter Rudnicki was wrongfully dismissed from his position as senior policy adviser at Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, can the minister indicate whether Mr. Rudnicki will be rehired and, if he will not be rehired, why he will not be taken back into the federal civil service?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rudnicki has been compensated. He has other employment, I believe, with the government of Manitoba and I do not think he has indicated any desire to return to the federal public service. I wish him well in his new career.