

effects of rapidly rising prices for petroleum products on eastern Canadian provincial economies, and can the minister say if there has yet been a level set by the federal government beyond which it will not permit prices to rise in that area of Canada without relief measures being introduced?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** The answer to both parts of the question is no.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a brief supplementary to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Having regard to the special and serious consequences of the energy crisis on eastern Canada, has the minister made any specific proposals to cabinet to help mitigate these effects, for example, with respect to Newfoundland where the price of home heating oil has risen from 19 cents to over 40 cents a gallon in a comparatively short period of time?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am constantly making representations to my colleagues with regard to the betterment of conditions in Atlantic Canada, and you can take it for granted that I am doing so on this issue as well.

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### TRANSPORT

#### REQUEST THAT REPORT ON RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO BE MADE AVAILABLE

**Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In light of the fact that some two weeks ago the minister received the report of the Canadian Transport Commission on rail passenger service in southwestern Ontario, would the minister advise the House when that report will be made available to the members of the House?

● (1500)

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, this report was received and is being analysed by the department. I want to discuss it with the government of Ontario and I hope that even before then we will reach some decision concerning this report.

**Mr. Jarvis:** In light of the fact the minister has been deferring questions on this matter for some months awaiting this study, would he agree that the study should be made available to members of the House before he discusses the matter with his provincial counterpart in Ontario?

[Translation]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I—

### Oral Questions

[English]

### ENERGY

#### NEGOTIATIONS BY QUEBEC TO PURCHASE OVERSEAS OIL—PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the minister aware of the efforts of SOQUIP, the Quebec government oil company, to buy oil around the world, and especially the efforts of Paul Desrochers negotiating on behalf of the Quebec government in the Middle East? If so, has there been any exchange of information at the ministerial level and to officials of the Canadian Commercial Corporation as to success?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to discuss the general question with my Quebec colleague last week. There was no indication at that time that any contract had been secured by SOQUIP or any other Quebec company.

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### FINANCE

#### POSSIBILITY OF PRICE CONTROLS ON ALUMINUM, NICKEL AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS IN LIGHT OF COMPANY PROFITS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the third quarter profits for corporations have gone up 48 per cent this year and profits of primary industries have gone up some 105 per cent, is the minister contemplating a policy of expanding selective price controls on products such as aluminum, nickel and other raw materials produced in this country?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** No, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Perhaps we might allow the hon. member a supplementary question, and then I will see the hon. member for Lincoln, followed by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

**Mr. Nystrom:** In view of the tremendous problems in some of these areas, could the minister tell us whether he is contemplating the possibility of implementing an export tax on such items as aluminum, nickel and copper?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, if that were so, this would not be the time to announce it.

#### REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF SALES TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS

**Mr. Kenneth J. Higson (Lincoln):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister aware of the sudden and sharp increase in the price of building materials during the last month to six weeks, presumably as a result of the petroleum problems which we are suffer-