

Oral Questions

the lower mainland of British Columbia, can the minister advise how soon the Hall report will be available and whether or not it is possible that his recommendations or decisions will be tabled prior to the presently proposed recess of parliament?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I did not hear the last two or three words of the hon. member's question, although I believe I got the general purport. I would advise, as I have advised before, that the report of the hon. Mr. Justice Emmett Hall should be available to the parties and, for that matter, very shortly thereafter to the public and every hon. member, about the middle of this month.

Mr. Gleave: In connection with that matter may I ask, in view of the minister's answer, whether we will also have the report of Dr. Deutsch with respect to pensions? Is that to be made at the same time? Can we have that report before parliament recesses so that we may have an idea of what is going to happen to pensions so far as railway workers are concerned?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member is aware, that report was to be submitted to the hon. Mr. Justice Hall for his consideration, so I imagine its contents would be made available at the same time as the Hall report itself, probably as an appendix.

* * *

ENERGY**INQUIRY WHETHER MEETING HELD BETWEEN MINISTER AND ARAB STATE REPRESENTATIVES RESPECTING REPORTED OFFER OF OIL AT LOWER PRICE**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether he has met with the Minister of Energy of Kuwait or any other Arabian country with respect to a reported offer to supply 360,000 barrels of crude petroleum to Canada at a price considerably less than what Canada or agents representing our country are paying now for Venezuelan crude petroleum?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not had a meeting.

[Later:]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources answered my question in such inaudible terms that I felt he must have some knowledge. Has the minister any knowledge? Has there been any offer of such a sale to him, to his department or to any other minister of the government, particularly the Minister of Supply and Services, to the knowledge of the minister?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of proposals put by various of the eastern hemisphere oil producers to the officials of my department, and they have been investigated. I think I would have to examine particularly with them whether this particular proposition the hon. gentleman has mentioned was among those and, if so, what the exact terms of it were.

[Mr. Gleave.]

[Translation]

HOUSING**AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES UNDER NEW PROVISIONS OF ACT**

Mr. Speaker: The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Portneuf.

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

Since the enforcement of Bill C-133 would alleviate in part the housing problem which remains a major issue in this country, could the minister advise the House whether he intends to make a statement in the near future concerning the relevant agreements reached with the provinces?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I made a statement yesterday indicating that we have agreements with regard to the neighborhood improvement program, which I take it the hon. member is referring to, either agreements or agreements in principle, with nine of the provinces, and that just before Christmas I had very useful and friendly discussions with the minister from the province of Quebec in Quebec City. I am optimistic that an agreement can be concluded at an early date.

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): I wish to direct a supplementary to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

When agreements were reached with the provinces, did he ask them to indicate clearly the amounts coming from the federal government for the construction of homes, including those for the aged?

[English]

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, the agreements to which my answer applied refer only to the neighborhood improvement program. There are no agreements relative to old age housing or senior citizens' housing. They are made project by project with each province.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-INFLATION POLICY**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As the latest report of the OECD, of which Canada is a member, very strongly criticizes this country for not having a comprehensive anti-inflation policy, can the minister advise the House if the government is in the process of preparing such a policy now, and may we expect to hear it announced in the House in the very near future?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman is referring to reports of an alleged impending report. If he will refer to the last published report in December, he will not find that type of analysis of the Canadian position.