

effect that the situation may rectify itself before the end of the day.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I have a very short supplementary question. Would the minister tell the House whether any trains are moving in and out of Vancouver at this time or is this situation restricted to the trains of only one railway company?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the matter of trains moving in and out of Vancouver has as yet assumed that degree of importance. The fact of the matter is that over the weekend most of the activity necessary related to the assembly of railway cars for movement to Vancouver, and that was being done in the mid-western provinces.

EFFECT OF FAILURE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES TO RETURN TO WORK ON FEED GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Donald Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that addressed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the railway strike is not fully settled, as was so confidently announced by the right hon. Prime Minister, and that most employees have not returned to work, what steps is the government proposing to take to ensure that feed grains, for both human and animal consumption, will reach points throughout British Columbia, particularly Vancouver Island, in the quantities required?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I should not want my previous answer to mislead the hon. member into exaggerating the situation. I believe the strike is settled for all intents and purposes, and, judging from historical comparisons, things are settling in very well. I believe the union leadership and the railway companies should be complimented by all members of this House for the degree of responsibility they have shown. The fact of the matter is that this situation has not had any serious repercussions at the moment because almost all the activity in terms of the movement of grain involves the railways getting under way by the assembling of the cars in the western prairie provinces.

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● (1750)

[Translation]

ENERGY

INQUIRY RESPECTING SUPPLY OF HEATING OIL FOR EASTERN CANADA—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the announcement made earlier by the Right Honourable Prime Minister concerning the transportation of Western oil products to Eastern Canada, could the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources assure the House that these measures can be applied soon enough to provide

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the population with sufficient heating fuel at a reasonable price to meet next winter's demand in Eastern Canada?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I should point out that the measures suggested this afternoon by the Right Honourable Prime Minister do not apply directly to the problem referred to by the hon. member, but rather to the construction of a pipeline from Toronto to Montreal. However, I should add that my department, the National Energy Board and myself are doing everything in our power to provide an adequate supply of oil, and especially of heating fuel, for our population next winter.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

NUMBER OF PERSONS BETWEEN 60 TO 65 INELIGIBLE FOR OLD AGE PENSION—STATUS OF DISCUSSION ON GUARANTEED MINIMUM INCOME

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

Since most senior citizens do not receive any pay or dividend on investments which would enable them to face inflation, has the Prime Minister ordered any study on the number of people aged 60 to 65 who are not yet eligible for the old age security pension but who would need to get from the government a fixed monthly income until a guaranteed minimum income plan is implemented?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, personally, I have not ordered such studies, but the matter has of course been discussed by the Minister of National Health and Welfare, other colleagues and myself, and if the hon. member would refer to statements made by the minister on this subject, he will then see what the government's position is.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I would hope there would be as few supplementaries as possible because there are only five minutes left before I call it six o'clock, although of course hon. members may wish to conclude the question period before we rise for dinner. For the moment, the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe for a supplementary, and then the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar who has a supplementary to the previous question.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Could he inform the House what progress is being made about the guaranteed minimum income, and to what extent this study takes into account the very serious problem of the cost of living?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there again, if the hon. member would refer to the documents published by the