

now to see whether there could be some consolidation of the bargaining units which would reduce the incidence of work stoppages.

Mr. Mazankowski: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the minister's statement is rather uncertain. In the interim, while the future of Canada's reputation as a reliable shipper is being severely undermined and while the effect ripples throughout the whole economy, the greatest hardship is imposed upon the producers of grain in that they have lost hundreds of millions of dollars. Could I ask the minister if any consideration is being given to developing ways and means in which the producers of grain may be shielded or insulated from the financial hardships that are caused by these frequently recurring strikes?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I think the most appropriate and positive action that can be taken in a situation such as this is for business and management, together with the government, to come together in an effort to find an appropriate solution. Without that type of co-operative effort I see no permanent solution.

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FINANCE

ALLEGATION EXXON ENGAGES IN PRACTICE OF TRANSFER PRICING—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In light of the information made public in a recent court case involving Imperial Oil reported in the press last Friday which suggested that the supply and pricing of oil imported by Imperial Oil are managed from the headquarters of Exxon Corporation in New York, and that Exxon has engaged extensively in the practice of transfer pricing between its subsidiaries in order to avoid the payment of Canadian taxes, has the government made any plans to modify its oil import compensation scheme to ensure that payments reflect real costs to the companies involved and not costs as disguised by transfer pricing between one company and another.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as a result of that report I want to consult with my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and my colleague the Minister of National Revenue to see what substance there is in it.

● (1420)

ALLEGATION IMPERIAL OIL OPERATES DUMMY CORPORATION IN BERMUDA TO AVOID PAYMENT OF CANADIAN TAXES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I have a supplementary question for the same minister. In light of the further revelation in the same court case that Imperial Oil has operated a dummy corporation in Bermuda for the purpose of avoiding the payment of Canadian taxes, does the government view this as a problem and, if so, what does it plan to do about it?

Oral Questions

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Of course, the administration of the Income Tax Act is the responsibility of my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue. I will be talking to him.

Mr. Broadbent: While agreeing that the administration of the act is the responsibility of another minister, the act itself is the responsibility of the Minister of Finance. I should like to ask him whether the government is concerned about the creation of dummy corporations in Bermuda or elsewhere set up specifically for the purpose of avoiding paying Canadian taxes, and, if so, does the government intend to bring forward legislation to deal with the situation?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We are concerned but we have a duty to operate on the basis of facts rather than allegations and suppositions. We will look into it.

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CANADIAN UNION FOR QUEBEC LONGSHOREMEN

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Labour.

Since Parliament passed legislation to put a little order in the St. Lawrence ports just over a month ago while the dispute is continuing and since it is increasingly evident that it is to the detriment not only of the Canadian economy but of the Canadian workers as well, will the minister consider the advisability of introducing legislation to promote the establishment of a purely Canadian union, thus enabling Canadian workers to receive orders from Canada and not from union leaders of a foreign country?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, so far as legal remedies being pursued now are concerned, I believe the Prime Minister has fully answered that question a few moments ago. I would advise the hon. member, on information which I just received from the Minister of Agriculture, that there have been no impediments to the grain movement in the province of Quebec.

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INDUSTRY

DECLINE IN PRODUCTIVITY—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO STIMULATE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As the latest figures show that industrial productivity in Canada has fallen during the present year at the same sharp pace it did during the past two years, is the minister planning in the very near future to announce measures to correct this very serious situation?