

Oral Questions

Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Yes, Pharmacare.

Mr. Lalonde: There is no such intention at the present time.

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AGRICULTURE**EGGS—RECONCILIATION OF IMPORTS WITH DIRECTIONS TO REDUCE CANADIAN PRODUCTION**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Can the Minister of Agriculture explain to the House how he reconciles the importing of eggs into Canada, as was done prior to Christmas and again in recent weeks, with directions to Canadian producers to cut back production?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I am sure the hon. member knows that it has been customary to import eggs into Canada from time to time. A surprising factor has been the increase in Canadian consumption. The other day I used the figure of 9 per cent as representing the increase over and above any other months of January or February. I was wrong. The increase in consumption amounted to 14 per cent.

Mr. Towers: Can the minister tell the House whether or not it is cheaper to import eggs than to produce them in Canada?

Mr. Whelan: It is rather costly. CEMA had to pay the extra cost because the United States eggs coming in at that time were more expensive than were eggs in Canada.

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NATIONAL PARKS**ENTRANCE FEES—REQUEST FOR ABOLITION—POSITION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development? It has to do with his weekend conferences in the Atlantic regions concerning entrance fees to national parks. Is the minister in a position to advise us whether he has won the support of the government of Prince Edward Island for his new scale of fees and, if not, will he give consideration to the suggestion implied in the supplementary of my hon. friend from Selkirk?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I think the position would have to be stated in this way: the government of Prince Edward Island is not elated at the concept of fees at all but is prepared, reluctantly, to accept them on this modified basis.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Prime Minister. In scrutinizing the spending of the government for the fiscal year 1976-77 and the anticipated projection for 1978, would the hon. gentleman restrain the Prime Minister from spending \$5.2 million on the East Block, bearing in mind that the new Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition will have some renovation plans of his own when he takes over as Prime Minister in 1978?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

FINANCE**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT—REQUEST FOR STAGGERING OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT DEMANDS**

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Lafontaine-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In light of the statements of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on the deterioration of our balance of payments deficit, is the government considering taking concrete steps to remedy the situation and more particularly to stagger capital demands so that they might not all come up at once and that Canadian savings might be able to finance major capital expenditure projects?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the last part of the question, I have already suggested to my provincial counterparts that we should have consultations with a view to setting up a more co-operative program with regard to capital needs in Canada.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLAN FOR PROTECTION OF NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT AND DECISION ON DRILLING PLANS OF DOME PETROLEUM**

Mr. J. R. Holmes (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment and is supplementary to questions asked previously in this House regarding oil spills and environmental damage to the north. In view of the fact that a senior official in the Department of Northern Affairs monitoring environmental factors has stated that he has never seen an oil spill contingency plan, and bearing in mind the minister's interest in the ecology of the north as expressed by his answers in the House, will the hon. gentleman tell us whether he has developed, or is now developing, a comprehensive environment protection plan and, if so, when the details will be made known to the House?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, since there have been oil spills in the high