

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. McGrath:** Will the minister now respond to that part of my question in respect of the request by Canadian egg producers for import controls on U.S. eggs presently coming into Canada?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, we just received the brief from them one day this week and we have had short discussions. Several ministers have copies of the submission and are studying it and will be in the next few days—the next week.

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**ENERGY****OIL—REQUEST THAT PRICES OF PRODUCTS REFINED FROM FEEDSTOCKS NOW ON HAND NOT BE INCREASED**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It is my understanding that the refineries usually have about 45 days' supply or more of feedstocks for their refineries. I should, therefore, like to ask the minister whether he has been in consultation with the companies to make sure that the price freeze which has existed until now so far as the products coming out of the refineries are concerned will be maintained for the next 45 days so that refineries will not increase the price on stock which they had bought at the frozen \$4 price?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, a telex will be going out to the industry today, which I will be glad to lay on the table later, asking the various companies to restrain the price of refined products related to the feedstock costs alone for a further period of 45 days, that is, until May 15, so oil on hand inventories at the lower price can be worked through the system with the price increase coming after that on future products.

**Mr. Lewis:** I would gather from the minister's answer that he has not yet discussed this with the companies. Can he give the House any indication whether he expects that the request in his telex will be carried out by the companies concerned?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I should say that I discussed the question with a number of major companies last week, indicating the government's intention with regard to inventories. I cannot, of course, be certain with regard to the industry until the request is formally communicated, but I have an expectation that it will be carried out.

**OIL—SUGGESTED USE OF EXPORT TAX REVENUE TO AID EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question either for the minister or the right hon. Prime Minister. When the export tax was first introduced one of the objectives for which the revenues from the export tax were to be used was to assist in the development of new energy sources and resources in Canada. In view of the fact that the export tax about which the Prime Minister is now talking is to be used

[Mr. Whelan.]

almost entirely for the purpose of subsidizing the eastern part of Canada east of the Ottawa line, may I ask one or the other of the two gentlemen whether it is the government's intention to set aside adequate funds to assist the provinces, where further oil may be found, in exploration and development, such as the tar sands, so there will be some Canadian ownership of the future development of these new sources of petroleum?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, our view would be that in view of the very substantial amounts by way of capital that the two producing provinces will be accruing from that portion of the increase they choose to take by way of royalties, it seems to us that no additional federal funds should be required for this purpose. We will, of course, in due course be bringing forward to the House the proposal with regard to a national petroleum corporation under federal jurisdiction which would be funded with federal funds.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are a number of hon. members seeking to ask supplementary questions on this subject. Perhaps the Chair might be allowed to proceed with the first round of questions and then I will see the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. members on supplementary questions.

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[Translation]

**AGRICULTURE****HOGS—INCREASE IN PRICE OF FEED IN EASTERN CANADA**

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Agriculture.

As the hog producers in eastern Canada, and more specifically in Quebec, are no longer making any profits on their production because of lower sales prices and increases in the cost of feed grains, more specifically from \$94.93 in January 1973 to \$152.20 in 1974, will the government take immediate steps to protect those producers adequately?

[English]

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we have received some representations from different hog producer organizations, but I am not prepared at this time to say what we intend to do.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Since the minister received representations in that regard, can he say whether he will announce his decision very soon so that we can advise the concerned producers who tell us their distress and ask us for positive action?

[English]

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, the same answer still holds. I am not prepared to say what action we are going to take or whether there will be a statement made.