

had on the Canadian economy consequences quite easy to figure out.

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to look into the situation referred to by the hon. member. I think I should make clear, however, that although none of us favours the kind of increases we have seen recently on the part of industry, industry too is faced with rising costs including rising material costs.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

OLD AGE SECURITY AND CANADA PENSION PLAN PAYMENTS—POSSIBILITY OF REDUCTION OF AGE OF ELIGIBILITY TO 60

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the deep concern and the need of many Canadians between the ages of 60 and 65, and in view of the wide support in Canada for the proposition that pensions should be available at age 60, may I ask the minister whether the government is giving consideration to proposing amendments to the Old Age Security Act and the Canada Pension Plan to establish pensions at age 60 on a voluntary basis?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the hon. member that there are many people below age 60 who are also in need of support. The policy of the government is to provide income supplementation and some form of guaranteed income to all those people in need in this country without regard to age. Therefore I do not plan to introduce a piecemeal amendment of the type the hon. member is proposing.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if his professed concern for all those in need includes concern for those between the ages of 60 and 65?

Mr. Lalonde: Obviously, Mr. Speaker. That is what I said. There are a lot of people in need in this country of all ages and our concern and that of the House, I would think, would be with all those people in need and not just a particular group.

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ENERGY

PRICE OF HEATING OIL PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT— RESULT OF TRANSACTION

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. Last Wednesday I asked the minister what price the government had paid for the middle distillate it purchased late last year. He indicated that he did not have the informa-

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tion at that time. Can the minister tell the House today what price was paid for that heating oil?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, it is the same situation I have outlined last week.

[English]

Mr. Andre: In view of information given to me that the price paid for this heating oil was in fact 52 cents a gallon compared with the retail price of 33 cents a gallon, would the minister indicate what plans his department has for selling this oil, upon which they are now paying storage costs, and disposing of it so as to limit the losses which are already in excess of \$5 million?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the hon. member's premises, but we are now looking into various possibilities regarding the use of this surplus oil, due to the fact, as I have already mentioned, that our winter was quite mild.

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FINANCE

RECOVERY FROM PROVINCES OF AMOUNT OWING FOR SERVICES OF ARMED FORCES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

Does he intend to ask for the millions of dollars owing by provincial governments for services rendered by the Canadian Armed Forces and which are mentioned in the Auditor General's report of February 28, 1973?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

HOUSING

METROPOLITAN TORONTO—ACTION TO CURB SPECULATION AND GOUGING

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is the minister aware that houses in the Toronto area are now increasing in price at a rate in excess of \$50 per day, seven days a week including Sundays, and is the government prepared to take any action whatsoever to curb the speculation and gouging now taking place in housing prices?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that was outlined in a speech I made in the House two days ago in which I indicated that in the capital allocations of Central Mortgage and Housing areas such as Toronto and Vancouver, where there are either very low vacancy rates or high escalation of costs, would receive priority attention.