

Inquiries of the Ministry

the fact that the cost of food used in the home increased by 7.4 per cent from April, 1971, to April, 1972, and in view of the further fact that in food chains such as George Weston, profits rose by nearly \$3.5 million in the first three months of 1972, will the government undertake an investigation to see whether this increase in the cost of food, which bears so heavily on those on low income—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member will appreciate that this is argument and debate. The question should be asked as soon as possible.

Mrs. MacInnis: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the government undertake to make an investigation to see whether this increase in the cost of food is due to inordinate mark-ups by supermarkets or excessive profit-taking by canners and processors of food?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly see that the suggestion of the hon. member is studied. However, I might say that according to our statistics the gain was in line with the March-April changes in the past five years. As a matter of fact, if you look at the average change between those two months for the past five years and the over-all consumer price index, it was slightly less this year than it has been in the past five.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TRANSFER OF POINT EDWARD INDUSTRIAL PARK TO CORPORATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact that negotiations regarding the official transfer of the Point Edward Industrial Park from the Department of Transport to the Cape Breton Development Corporation commenced in 1969, can the minister advise whether this long-awaited action has taken place? I am sure he is familiar with the situation. In light of the statement made in committee on April 25, 15 days ago, by the president of Devco, Mr. Kent, that he was confident the matter would be settled that week, is the minister in a position to provide us with information on whether this has taken place so that the unions can negotiate a settlement?

• (1500)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I am not sure that it took place. I will check and I may make a report tomorrow.

[Mrs. MacInnis.]

[Translation]

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—INQUIRY RESPECTING REFUSAL OF CERTAIN QUEBEC PROJECTS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Secretary of State.

Could he tell us if it is true that federal M.P.'s have nipped in the bud 39 projects submitted by Quebecers under the Opportunities for Youth program because they were considered too dangerous on account of their social scope and the individuals advocating them?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will realize, I am sure, that the question under its present form is out of order. He is inquiring about a statement or a suggestion which would have been made outside the House.

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[English]

PENSIONS

OLD AGE SECURITY—TRANSFERABILITY TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Bearing in mind representations made to the government by individuals and organizations across the nation, may I ask whether a decision has been reached as to the transferability of old age pensions to other countries after a period of residence in Canada of less than the 25 years presently required.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I believe the hon. member will be glad to learn, after all his work in this connection—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro: —that provision for this is contained in the legislation now before the House.

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POLLUTION

THREAT FROM SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE"—TIME OF REMOVAL OF VESSEL

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It is prompted by a statement by the minister of the environment and community services for Prince Edward Island to the effect that it is now too late to raise the *Irving Whale* this year. Can the minister advise whether this is the view of his department and, if so, when it is intended to remove this menace to the environment?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): If the hon. member means this year during the summer tourist season, it will not be done during that time. I fully agreed with the government of Prince Edward Island not to