

wrong. The answer is: as soon as they can be built. We were told by the Wheat Board that they intended to do the same. As to what date, it would be preferable to ask the Minister of Justice himself.

**Mr. Towers:** I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Does the Canadian Wheat Board have jurisdiction to purchase hopper cars without the approval of the grain producers?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is an even more appropriate question for the Minister of Justice.

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### FINANCE

#### EFFECT OF OIL POLICY DECISION ON DATE OF PRESENTATION OF BUDGET

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the remarkable statement by the Minister of Finance yesterday in the House that the budget was being delayed because of the uncertainties in the economy surrounding oil price increases, and in view of the further fact that on January 22 the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources presented on behalf of the government a very specific forecast to the First Ministers Conference on Energy indicating the impact of the oil situation on the consumer price index, could the Minister of Finance today tell us either the date of the budget or the real reason why the government does not want to present it to the House immediately?

● (1450)

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's preamble just does not hang together.

**Mr. Wagner:** You are going to hang.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** I said yesterday that one of the reasons for delaying the budget was to ascertain the results of the first ministers' conference in dividing the benefits and burdens of the \$5 million potential revenue and \$5 million potential burden in sharing the oil price situation in Canada. That having been done, that situation is being satisfied; that is what I put to the House yesterday.

#### PARTICIPATION BY DEPARTMENT IN PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE ON ENERGY

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. In spite of the fact that is not what the minister said yesterday, I wonder if I could ask if he or members of his department had any hand in the paper presented by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to the first ministers' conference in January?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, without revealing the total ingredients and participation in government policy, I can say that the Depart-

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ment of Finance was involved in any statement of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and in the preparation leading up to the Prime Minister's participation in the meeting of first ministers.

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### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister. I should like to ask if and when the governor of the Bank of Canada will have a budget to present to the House?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is not within his terms of reference as approved by parliament.

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### LABOUR RELATIONS

#### STRIKES BY ST. LAWRENCE RIVER PILOTS AND AIRPORT FIREFIGHTERS—POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS ON REGIONAL PAY DIFFERENTIAL—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Can the hon. gentleman tell us briefly how negotiations are proceeding with regard to the difficulties in the St. Lawrence River with the pilots and at the same time can he indicate whether the problems with the firefighters are completely resolved?

**An hon. Member:** And how about the postmen?

**An hon. Member:** How about the controllers?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** And the whole report on labour relations in Canada! Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows I am not the one who negotiates for all these groups. As far as the pilots are concerned, I met with them for two hours this morning and we tried to find a solution. We hope we are on the right track, but I am not sure it would be accepted the way it was presented. As far as the firefighters are concerned, this is a problem between the alliance and the firefighters. I am still hopeful that the firefighters are going to follow the advice of their union.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I shall try to be brief with my supplementary. In view of the fact that Treasury Board pay policies, which appear to be regional pay as far as the west is concerned and national pay in the east, appear to be root causes in both these situations as well as others, does the minister intend to make representations to the President of the Treasury Board to take a fresh approach in this whole matter?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I think if you look at the two problems you will see they are different because the airport firefighters in British Columbia want to compare themselves with the Vancouver firefighters, and the St. Lawrence pilots want to compare themselves