

Oral Questions

violating the quota system worked out by ICNAF and, if so, what actions have been taken by this government?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, at one point during that conference I thought the hon. member had resigned from the House and joined the press corps. I was very pleased to see him in attendance.

However, in response to this very serious question I must say that I have not had a report on the results of these boardings as yet. I will look into this matter and inform the hon. member.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**INFLATION—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO COMBAT**

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): My question is based on the fact that the federal government's annual expenditures have more than doubled over six years from \$12 billion to over \$26 billion. In view of the statement by the chairman of the Economic Council of Canada that domestic inflation is largely caused by federal government expenditure duplication and waste, I should like to ask the minister when the federal government will take a leadership role in battling inflation and when the Minister of Finance will present to the House of Commons the government's precise program to wrestle inflation to the ground.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was here on budget night and he heard me elaborate on that quite fully. The chairman of the Economic Council also referred to structural changes in the cost of energy, the cost of food and other contributing factors to inflation in this country and elsewhere.

Mr. Grafftey: In view of the fact that the minister himself stated that the government in the budget was more preoccupied with the problem of recession, is it not his intention at a future time to present a precise program to the House to battle inflation as opposed to the recessionary considerations with which he was involved in the budget this year?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That is not exactly what I said on budget night. I said that there were twin problems, the problem of inflation and the problem of the threat of recession, and in order to fight them, I recommended for the 1975-76 year a stimulus in the amount of a cash deficit of \$3 billion, largely achieved by tax cuts both at the corporate sales tax and the personal tax levels which would give that stimulus in a non-inflationary way. In other words, I hoped to achieve a stimulus to protect us against the threat of recession but in a non-inflationary a fashion as I could.

[Mr. Carter.]

PUBLIC SERVICE**GRAIN INSPECTORS STRIKE—REQUEST FOR ACTION TO HAVE GRAIN MOVED**

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to other questions but it relates to the non-movement of grain. It arises from representations made only this morning to me by feeders in my area. I will put my question to the Prime Minister; perhaps he can do something about it before he leaves for Washington.

As a result of the continuing grain inspectors strike, orders for grain and stock and poultry feed placed by feeders in our section of Ontario through the Prescott elevator are now going unfilled or partly filled or interrupted. Because of the adverse effect of this situation, will the Prime Minister please press for an early resumption of the movement of grain?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a repetition of the representation made earlier this afternoon. The House is aware that meetings were going on this morning and that we hope for a very quick settlement of this strike. We will certainly have to inform the House of whatever new developments there may be during the day by tomorrow.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH PRESIDENT FORD—REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATIONS TO HALT GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. When he visits Washington, will he make the strongest possible representation to President Ford to call a halt to all construction of the Garrison Diversion unit project in North Dakota because of the serious pollution and massive flooding problem it will generate in Manitoba?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will certainly take note of the representation. It is something in which the federal government is very interested of course. As the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings reminded us, the meeting will not be a very long one and I cannot guarantee that I will be raising every subject which is of interest to Canada and to hon. members.

Mr. McKenzie: Perhaps the Secretary of State for External Affairs might have more time in Washington. In view of the serious shortage of water in the United States, will the Prime Minister or the minister impress upon President Ford that it would be only logical to divert water from the Garrison project for use within their own country?