

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I shall look forward to receiving full evidence about the Syncrude project either from the premier or the company.

**TAR SANDS OIL—POSSIBILITY OF JOINT
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the minister. In view of the fact we ought to ensure that we do not make the same mistakes in developing the tar sands as were made in developing the oil fields and turn them over to the multinational corporations, I want to ask the minister whether the government is prepared to make an offer in principle to the oil-producing provinces that have tar sands to develop them on a joint basis so that the federal and provincial governments might develop and control the tar sands oil in conjunction with the public?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, we mentioned at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference our interest in priority in assisting in the development of the oil sands, particularly in research and development. I have not yet made, nor have I been authorized to make, any offer such as suggested by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the fact that these fields must be developed in the next few years if we are to meet the anticipated oil shortage likely to arise by 1983, may I ask the minister if the government is prepared to give serious consideration to a joint public involvement on the part of the federal government with those provincial governments that are willing to co-operate?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to give that serious consideration.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**INCREASED FOOD PRICES—EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT'S
MONETARY POLICIES**

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that of the Leader of the Opposition and is addressed to the Prime Minister. Is the government studying the extent that the rise in food and other prices has been caused by the government's own monetary policies and, if so, what steps are planned to change those policies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had occasion to hear the Minister of Finance in the debate the other day and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, he would perhaps begin to understand that, on the contrary, our fiscal and monetary policies have made the situation better in Canada than in most other industrialized nations.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

WELFARE

**CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES ON INCREASING OF
PAYMENTS IN LIGHT OF COST OF LIVING**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the continuous increase in the cost of living affects those on low and fixed incomes, and in view of the fact the Prime Minister indicated that the federal government would pay 50 per cent of any increases by the provinces under the Canada Assistance Plan and social assistance, would the minister indicate if he has been in consultation with all the provinces, whether they have indicated agreement to such a plan, and what action the federal government intends to take in this regard?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have indeed consulted my colleagues. As a matter of fact, I consult them regularly. Since that time the provinces of Ontario and Quebec have already announced an increase in their welfare payments. I understand that several other provinces are reviewing their present scale of welfare payments, which had already been increased prior to this month, and that there may be further adjustments in the future.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

**STE.-SCHOLASTIQUE—MEASURES TO FACILITATE
SETTLEMENT OF EXPROPRIATION CASES**

Mr. Francis Fox (Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Public Works.

Can he inform the House whether he is prepared to set up a mechanism which could ease a satisfactory settlement of the 350 pending expropriation cases at Mirabel?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, at the request of the hon. member for Argenteuil-Deux-Montagnes as well as those of Terrebonne (Mr. Comtois) and Labelle (Mr. Dupras), we have created a conciliation committee which will do exactly this work. I hope they will settle the odd remaining cases to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**STE.-SCHOLASTIQUE—MEASURES TO HASTEN PAYMENT
OF COMPENSATION FOR LANDS EXPROPRIATED**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, knowing the efficiency of the Minister of Public Works and his two colleagues whom he has just named and who do not meddle in politics, I should like to ask him a question.

Considering that a great number of expropriated persons have not yet received their compensation cheques and that the rent charged to the persons involved has been increased without any prior consultation, can the minister say what steps he intends to take to cope with departmental dilatoriness?