

Ontario that Ottawa's wage and price controls will have no effect on farm incomes and little impact on retail food prices?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, he was not reflecting government opinion because that would be a matter of foresight.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: As the Minister of Finance indicated, and as the white paper makes clear, farmers' prices are not frozen. They are not subject to the guidelines. What effect this will have at the retail level will depend very much, (a), on what the marketing boards do and, (b), whether or not some of the costs that the retailers are allowed to pass on are absorbed. We are confident that they will and that costs will be kept down, but to what degree, I repeat, will be a matter of prophecy and I do not want to engage in that.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—SUGGESTED APPLICATION TO
RETAILERS OF PROVISION RESTRICTING PRICE
ADJUSTMENTS TO ONCE IN THREE MONTHS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question which I will address to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the government's wage and price freeze in this anti-inflation fight indicates that manufacturers will not be allowed to increase their prices more frequently than once every three months but that retailers and wholesalers are exempt from this injunction, can the minister assure the House that such an injunction will also be applicable to retailers and wholesalers?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Well, Mr. Speaker, I should just like to correct the hon. member's terminology; it is not a "freeze". As I mentioned a moment ago, it is recognized that costs will be incurred, for example, with regard to imported fruits and vegetables which are so much a part of the marketing scene in Canada in the wintertime. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member that any variations in import costs during the winter should not be passed on, this does not seem to be practical.

● (1130)

ENERGY

DATE OF SIGNING PIPELINE TREATY WITH UNITED STATES—
PROVISION FOR COLLECTION OF STATE AND PROVINCIAL
TAXES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell the House when the pipeline treaty with the United States may be signed and whether it will particularly include provisions to prevent undue harassments in the form of taxation by provincial or state jurisdictions as has been suggested as a possibility by the proponents of the Alaska pipeline?

Oral Questions

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member the precise date when it will be signed but I can indicate to the House that we have been making substantial progress with the United States on this treaty. The one issue that remains to be settled at the moment involves the question of fiscal regimes and protection in respect of state and provincial taxes.

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HOUSING

POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING URBAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
AND CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and refers to his announcement on Wednesday of the appointment of Mr. William Teron, President of CMHC, to the post of acting secretary of the Ministry of Urban Affairs. Since this appointment places Mr. Teron in the position of making policy as well as the execution of such policy through another agency, would the Prime Minister tell us whether the government has now recognized that the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation were not synchronized in their approach to dealing with the Canadian housing prices, and whether it is the government's intention to combine the two agencies at this time under the chairmanship of Mr. Teron?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of internal organization with which we are proceeding. There is a temporary solution which has been made public, and if any further actions are taken I will inform the House about them.

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MORTGAGE CORPORATION—
ROLE OF MR. TERON

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister tell the House whether the government is now prepared to implement the act passed by parliament to establish a Federal Mortgage Corporation as a follow up to this latest move, and whether Mr. Teron through his many, varied and sizeable holdings will be asked by the government to facilitate such implementation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the insinuation was about private holdings, but I can assure the hon. member that the conflict of interest guidelines have been followed strictly by Mr. Teron.

DATE OF MEETING WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS AND
SUBJECTS ON AGENDA

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. In view of the fact that the mess in the government housing policy is now becoming apparent even to Liberal MP's, as so succinctly put by the hon.