

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Edmonton West.

Mr. Coates: In view of the fact it took the premier of Nova Scotia nine months to appoint representatives to the re-examination committee, will the Prime Minister advise whether prior to the premier of Nova Scotia making his statement about inexcusable procrastination he had consultations with the Prime Minister with regard to when this report will be made available?

Mr. Trudeau: None that I know of, Mr. Speaker, but here again I would defer to the minister.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

RECOVERY OF CANADA PENSION PLAN OVERPAYMENTS— AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENTS OF INFORMATION ON INCOME TAX RETURNS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue. In light of reports that some 3,400 recipients of Canada Pension Plan payments are being made the subject of recovery of alleged overpayments based upon examination of income tax returns, will the minister advise why, when the Department of National Revenue is charged with the collection of contributions to the Canada Pension Plan and the Department of National Health and Welfare is responsible for payments, officials of the Canada Pension Plan payment section have access to income tax returns, or will the minister indicate to the House whether information can be obtained from income tax returns by any department of government?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): No, Mr. Speaker. I will be glad to look into the particular problem the hon. member mentions. It has not been brought to my attention, but I will be glad to discuss it with my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

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AGRICULTURE

POSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF GRASSLANDS INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE BEEF PRODUCTION

Mr. Bill Knight (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the fact that, despite recent demands that producers go into all-out production of grain, many producers are still interested in putting marginal land into grass, can the minister inform the House whether the grasslands incentive program, which was to end this year, will be continued so that farmers can maintain their beef production, a matter of interest to the consumers of Canada as well as to the beef producers?

Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, a decision will be made on this question in a few days.

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ENERGY

OIL—MEETINGS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN PREMIERS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE SAME ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Is the Prime Minister meeting the premier of Alberta and the premier of Saskatchewan, and will he be meeting them together? Will he also assure the House and the country that, whatever deal is made with the two producing provinces and with the two premiers representing those provinces, the same deal will be made in view of the fact that Saskatchewan is implementing a special tax which the government of Alberta has not implemented?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the first part of the question, I have been and will be meeting several premiers separately, both from the producing and from the consuming provinces. There has been no attempt to make a deal, as the hon. member suggests; there has been an attempt to work out a solution that would be acceptable to every part of Canada. Every premier as well as myself, of course, will have this very much in mind when we are pursuing our talks.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister give us a little idea, in light of the remarks made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources in which he seemed to approach the matter in an atmosphere of confrontation, what figure he has in mind that every Canadian from sea to sea will pay, apart from the cost of transportation, for Canadian crude oil?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am sure I could give the hon. member a little idea, as he puts it, and I am also sure that he might have a little idea himself. But that is not the essence of the matter. We are meeting to try to reach, not agreement on the federal point of view or on the provincial point of view but an agreement that will reconcile all points of view. That is why I reject the hon. member's suggestion regarding the federal government's approaching this in a spirit of confrontation. At the federal-provincial conference in January and since we have tried to reach an agreement by agreement rather than by confrontation, and this is our spirit still. When we are asked questions, as we often are, like: What will you do if you do not get an agreement, we answer that the federal government will take its responsibility as it should. But it is rather unfair to press us to this hypothetical position and then say that we are looking for a confrontation. We are looking for an agreement.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A number of hon. members are seeking supplementaries but the question period is over. I might mention that to some extent the Chair has given priority to members in the first and second rows to my left today. A number of hon. members have been