

Oral Questions

increases. When the minister appeared a few days ago before the Liberal convention in Ottawa, he told the assembly that they would be rolling back food price increases. My question is this: Has the minister had an opportunity in the interim to meet with the Anti-Inflation Board and, if so, can he tell the House exactly how the board proposes to roll back any food price increases?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I refer the hon. gentleman to questions asked in the House regarding a Loblaw's subsidiary; it was to that particular incident that I had reference. It seems to me that with the bill before the committee it would be appropriate to discuss this further when I reappear before the committee, I believe next week.

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FISHERIES

ST. PIERRE-MIQUELON—COMPLICATIONS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE IN DETERMINING OFFSHORE RESOURCE RIGHTS

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fisheries). In my question to him yesterday about bilateral discussions with France on fisheries matters as they related to St. Pierre and Miquelon, he indicated that the fisheries relationships with France were complicated. Would the minister elaborate on that or make a statement on motions listing the complications that exist between the two countries?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the word "complicated" was not the right one, but I will stay with it. I am sure to the eternal gratitude of many Newfoundlanders, the fact that St. Pierre and Miquelon is not 200 miles away obviously makes extending the jurisdiction more complicated, and it was very much to this that I was referring. I am also grateful that St. Pierre and Miquelon are closer than 200 miles.

Mr. Marshall: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the sensitivity that now exists between Canada and France, and in view of the fact that St. Pierre and Miquelon could be a stumbling block with regard to Canada's position of eventually extending the limit to 200 miles, has the minister anything to advise the House about the discussions from that point of view?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I should remind the hon. member that we are still very much in a state of preliminary negotiations regarding these matters. We must recognize a geographical fact which will have to be taken into account, but I am sure the problems can be overcome.

[Mr. McGrath.]

ENERGY

OIL—METHOD OF MAKING UP REDUCTION IN TAX REVENUES CAUSED BY REDUCTION OF EXPORTS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. According to press reports the minister has informed the United States government, though not this House, that Canada's exports of crude oil will be reduced to 500,000 barrels a day. Since this would reduce export tax revenues that are needed for the import subsidy program by approximately \$120 million, would the minister inform the House how these funds will be made up? Does he anticipate a rise in the Canadian price of crude oil, is he simply going to add to an already overwhelming deficit, or is he going to make spending cuts in other areas?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have received the report of the National Energy Board and it is presently under discussion with my colleagues. I hope to be able to table it within the House within the next two weeks. As for the question concerning how we will be able to finance what is quite clearly a steadily decreasing export effort, I would remind him that efforts were made last year in this regard. The 10 cent excise tax should provide in the order of \$350 million this year, and in the next calendar year over \$500 million.

Mr. Andre: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Without accepting the minister's figures and contention that that looks after the total deficit, may I ask him a question regarding the supplementary estimates, which include an increase in the budget of the energy supplies allocation board of \$385 million. The recent 10 per cent increase in oil prices by the OPEC countries accounts for \$130 million maximum, leaving a difference of at least \$250 million. Since the amount of exports are totally predictable—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the hon. member is aware that under our procedures he will have an appropriate opportunity to question the minister in detail when the estimates are before the standing committee to which they were referred yesterday. This is not the forum for that kind of question.

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[Translation]

HARBOURS

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO APPLY NEW POLICY

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Since to my knowledge the government has not yet finally determined its policy for the development of port facilities in the country, especially in Quebec, can the minister tell the House whether he plans the early introduction of a bill to that effect?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my predecessor indicated that legislation would be