

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Danson:—but I shall look into it.

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HEALTH**ALLEGED HARMFUL EFFECT OF ARTIFICIAL COLOURING AND FLAVOURING—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that information has been brought to his attention about a possible problem with artificial colouring and flavouring of food, I wonder whether he could inform the House what action he has taken in the past few weeks to initiate purely Canadian research into this subject within our own country.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I wrote to the hon. member a few months ago about this matter. My department is studying all the literature on the subject, and particularly this problem, which is very complex and technically difficult. We are in regular contact with other countries, particularly the United States, where studies are in progress on the subject.

I must report to the hon. member that up to this stage there appears to be no scientific evidence on which we could act in support of the thesis he has been promoting.

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FINANCE**EFFECT OF NATIONALIZATION OF POTASH INDUSTRY BY SASKATCHEWAN ON BORROWING POSITION OF CANADA—PAYMENT OF FEDERAL CORPORATION TAX BY PROVINCIAL CROWN COMPANY**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the intention of the government of Saskatchewan to nationalize the potash industry, and in view of the fact that this will cost anywhere from \$1 billion to \$3 billion, much of which must be raised outside Canada, has the minister made any assessment of what this will do to the borrowing position of Canada? Further, will a provincial Crown corporation exploiting potash not be required to pay federal corporate tax?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that any substantial additional financing for any purpose in Canada, not generally contemplated at the beginning of the fiscal year, is going to have some impact on the ability of other Canadian governments and institutions to borrow abroad. I cannot advise the hon. member of the exact impact at this moment. He raises a very good point on the question of taxation of Crown corporations and that will have to be examined very closely in the context of the proposal.

[Mr. Danson.]

● (1200)

WINTER CAPITAL PROJECTS—POSSIBILITY OF NEW PROGRAM

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister planning to introduce a scheme similar to the winter capital projects fund which ended in June of this year and which provided for a loan with a forgiveness feature?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Not at this moment, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there has been some discussion amongst House leaders in relation to a bill which appears on the notice paper in the name of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras), entitled "An act to increase the rate of return on government annuity contracts to increase their flexibility and discontinue future sales thereof". I believe there is a willingness on the part of House leaders and, I hope, of the House that the ordinary notice could be shortened in this particular respect so that the bill could be read for the first time today. I would ask whether that suggestion might be acceptable.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, when approached in the right spirit, we can be very co-operative.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): That goes for all of us.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT**MEASURE TO INCREASE RATE OF RETURN ON GOVERNMENT ANNUITY CONTRACTS**

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-75, to increase the rate of return on government annuity contracts to increase their flexibility and discontinue future sales thereof.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

[Translation]

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 3,101, 3,134, 3,137, 3,147, 3,170, 3,204, 3,205, 3,207, 3,211, 3,243, 3,247 and 3,279.