

Oral Questions

he has to combat this threat and, in particular, has he met, or does he intend to meet with representatives of the municipalities involved, and is it the government's intention to release dieldron as a chemical to combat this threat?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, to answer the last question first, at the present time we have no intention of releasing dieldron. Our officials have had ongoing meetings with some of the concerned people in western Canada, and I hope to have some meetings with them myself. We are making as sure as we can that we have all the other chemicals we feel are proper to use in that they will have no damaging effects with regard to either animal or human consumption and no carry-over effects in the end product. We are doing everything we possibly can to make sure of this, but it is anybody's guess how many grasshoppers there will be this year.

* * *

ENERGY**SUBMISSION BY CERTAIN INDIAN BANDS FOR SHARE OF RETURNS FROM OIL EXPORT TAX**

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is he aware of the submissions made to his department by oil producing Indian bands regarding the export tax, and has his department made any decision as to the return of that export tax?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, indeed we have received submissions of that kind, and we will discuss this matter with both the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Finance.

An hon. Member: How about the Indians?

* * *

● (1140)

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**EXERCISE OF RESTRAINT IN SPENDING—DEPARTMENTS TO WHICH GUIDELINES DIRECTED IN LIGHT OF TRANSFER PAYMENTS**

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and is based on his reply to the question of the Leader of the Official Opposition regarding spending guidelines. May I ask the Prime Minister if the guidelines have been directed to government departments whose budgets are not concerned with transfer payments in order to ensure that the cut-down in their budgets will accommodate those higher budgets that include transfer payments?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, not necessarily. Some departments do not have transfer payments but, for example, in the case of External Affairs which has a general budgetary responsibility

[Mr. Neil]

for CIDA we have indicated we would not cut back on foreign aid. There are many examples where we do not necessarily effect this type of guideline. We look at each case on its own merits.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FORECAST EXPENDITURES AND ESTIMATES AS TABLED

Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the great difference between the forecast of estimates and the actual estimates that have been submitted, which I think indicate a possible increase of 50 per cent, can the minister give an explanation why the forecast was so far out of line with the actual expenditures indicated in the estimates?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure what the hon. gentleman means by the forecasts being out of line with the estimates. The estimates are the plans based on forecasts. If the forecasts are out of line, obviously the plans would be out of line also.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might be recognized for a further supplementary, following which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

Mr. Patterson: Mr. Speaker, I might indicate that in the estimates which were tabled there is a footnote stating that the forecast is as of December 31, 1973, and then the actual estimates which were tabled are actually over 50 per cent above the forecast. I was asking why the actual expenditures or estimates are so far above the forecast that was made in December?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I understand now. I think that if the hon. gentleman will compare the forecast presented in the main estimates and the total expenditures in the current fiscal year based on the December forecast, because that is when the estimates have to go to the printer, he will find they are substantially the same as the main estimates plus all the supplementary estimates with the exception, however, of one major item, the proposed payments in relation to compensation for the oil freeze. That was not included in any way in the December forecast.

* * *

[Translation]

INDUSTRY**INCREASE IN PRICE OF ASBESTOS BY JOHNS-MANVILLE—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Could the minister tell this House what action he proposes to take in view of the announcement made by the Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd. of Asbestos, a region well known to the Prime Minister, that it will increase its prices by 10 per cent starting April 1? This increase follows one of 8 to 16 per cent enforced on January 1 which