

*Oral Questions***ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM**

DATE PROGRAM WILL END—CONTROLS AS A METHOD OF FIGHTING INFLATION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. The hon. gentleman said last Monday in the House that the law clearly stipulates that contracts cannot continue after December, 1978, even though I think there is a twist in the law which might permit the government to continue them after that date. Since the parliamentary secretary said a week ago that controls will not end by the end of 1977 because the expectations of Canadians have not decreased to the level where we can accept voluntary restraints, I should like to ask whether the government has now abandoned all hope of ending controls before the end of next year?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Clarke: In view of the continued presence and even acceleration of high inflation despite some 18 months of controls, is the minister still satisfied with controls as the main attack on inflation?

Mr. Chrétien: Yes, sir.

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ENERGY

POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING HOME INSULATION PROGRAM IN NEWFOUNDLAND—DEVELOPMENT OF GULL ISLAND PROJECT

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the increases in oil prices agreed to at the conference yesterday will cause serious hardship to the Province of Newfoundland which is already torn asunder by increases in fuel prices affecting low income-earners, is the minister now prepared to expand the insulation program, or Enersave, in that province to alleviate the serious situation?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I am pleased the hon. member mentioned Enersave. I think the response in Newfoundland to this federal initiative for energy saving has been almost 100 per cent. I think it has demonstrated to Newfoundlanders the real opportunities for energy saving which exist. As to whether we shall be able to provide any help additional to that which we have provided and are now providing to Newfoundland, I am not in a position to give the hon. member any information at this point. I do know that energy ministers all across the country are addressing themselves to the question of what additional measures they, and we, may be able to take in the near future. Perhaps in a matter of a few months I shall be in a position to say more.

[Mrs. Campagnolo.]

Mr. Marshall: The minister realizes the need to develop alternate sources of supply. Has any progress been made to help the province develop the Gull Island site?

Mr. Gillespie: The hon. member would be helping his cause and the cause of Newfoundlanders if he would ask the premier of Newfoundland to get on with the job of providing me with the information. I have been waiting for six weeks now, for information which was promised to me much earlier.

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AGRICULTURE

EFFECT OF OIL PRICE INCREASE ON COST OF PRODUCTION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. The Science Council of Canada stated that the food and agriculture sectors of the economy in this country consume about 28 per cent of the petroleum products used. Since there is to be another price hike amounting to about \$2 per barrel on oil, may I ask whether the minister has studied the impact of this increase on food prices? If he has, what does he intend to do about it? Is he considering tax cuts or other benefits of that nature for farmers and fishermen?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): The government's concern in this area is evident from its actions. The fact is, we are taking care of our farmers in a better manner than ever before. We have surpassed the United States in the measure of aid we give to farmers through our stabilization programs and the marketing programs available to our farmers. In most instances these costs are taken into consideration and if necessary we use the stabilization legislation as a further measure of assistance.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF STUDY OF IMPACT OF RISING ENERGY COSTS ON PRICE OF FOOD

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of that totally useless answer I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Would he tell us whether his department is making any study of the impact the rising energy costs will have on the price of food, the Science Council having stated that food and agriculture use about 28 per cent of the petroleum used in Canada?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): My department is not equipped to carry out research of that sort.