

Oral Questions

Mr. Hees: The hon. member accused the minister of indulging in doubletalk. I think he was being very kind.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Finance inform the House whether he is aware that the proposed wage settlement in the elevator constructors' strike would result, possibly, in a 97 per cent wage and fringe benefit increase in that industry within the next five years, or about three times as large an increase as was awarded in the comparable settlement in the United States where the same parties in that country were bound by the Nixon guidelines?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: I know the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is making a speech. He is not asking a question. The hon. member for St. John's East on a supplementary.

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS' STRIKE—SUGGESTED
FEDERAL PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY
COMMISSION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. As the Liberal government of Nova Scotia proposes, with the other provinces, to set up a provincial industrial disputes commission to get around the niceties of the constitution, is the minister prepared to use his good offices and the facilities at his disposal, to assist in the setting up of the commission and to work closely with the provinces in order to bring about the settlement of this costly dispute?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, aside from the question of whether the setting up of a commission would rapidly settle the dispute, which is a very open question in itself, I have already said that, because of the serious economic implications of this strike, I and the government would be prepared to assist in any possible way but that we must have a basis upon which to act and that must come from the provinces.

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ENERGY

OIL—EASTERN CANADA SUPPLY—FEASIBILITY STUDY
ON PIPELINE EXTENSION—ASSURANCE OF SUPPLY BY
UNITED STATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the announcement that there is to be a substantial increase in the price of Venezuelan crude oil. As the area east of the Ottawa River is largely dependent on this source of supply, I want to ask the minister whether his department or the National Energy Board have completed the feasibility study on extension of the interprovincial pipeline, which his predecessor announced was under way, and whether the findings of that study will be made available to members of the House?

[Mr. Speaker.]

• (1420)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): No, Mr. Speaker. I remind the hon. member that the price differential between Montreal and western oil is between 90 cents and \$1. Even if the Venezuela price goes up, it will still be substantially below the Canadian supplier.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I asked whether the study is under way or is completed. In view of the discussions that have been going on between the minister and his counterpart in the United States government regarding contingency plans to ensure security of supply for eastern Canada in the event of a crisis, can the minister tell the House whether he has received any assurance from the United States government regarding security of supplies for eastern Canada apart from the promise they would put forth their best endeavours to see that oil would be made available to eastern Canada?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, as I have told the House several times, there is no agreement between the two governments at the moment. Officials will be meeting to negotiate further possible terms, but at the moment there is no formal arrangement between the two governments.

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AUTO PACT TERMS
AND SUPPLYING OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF OIL AND
GAS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of reports that the United States Senate interior committee, chaired by Senator Jackson, secured information from White House officials to the effect that favourable terms for the Canada-U.S. auto pact would be dependent upon Canada agreeing to supply large quantities of oil and gas to the United States, I ask the minister whether, in the trade discussions that have been carried on with the Americans, the supply of large quantities of oil and gas to the United States is the price Canadians will have to pay to get favourable terms in the auto pact?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

CO-ORDINATION OF PENSIONS PAID UNDER QUEBEC
AND CANADA PENSION PLANS

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

In view of the fact that the government of the province of Quebec has granted substantial increases for certain categories of pensions under the Quebec Pension Plan, does the minister intend to inform the House whether