

*Oral Questions*

increase in imports into the United States of foods at this time, is the government now prepared to use export controls on a temporary basis to avoid scarcities and an escalation of prices at consumer level?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** I am glad the hon. member has drawn the attention of the House to the failure of the kind of policy his party has been proposing for some months.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[*Translation*]

**SOCIAL SECURITY****FAMILY ALLOWANCES—INQUIRY RESPECTING MEANS EMPLOYED FOR PAYMENT**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Yesterday, as recorded on page 5751 of *Hansard*, in reply to a question on family allowances the minister replied: We are proposing that the act provide for an average of \$20 per child, and this amount may be more or less, but that the minimum be \$12. I would like to ask the minister to state clearly whether the cheques will be mailed directly from Ottawa to the families and what will be the amount received by each child, \$12 or \$15?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will allow the hon. minister to answer briefly to the question of the hon. member for Témiscamingue but it would seem that those questions are related to a measure which will be eventually before the House. In any case, I would not want to be unfair to the hon. member for Témiscamingue and the minister might reply briefly to this question.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I can give the hon. member the assurance that family allowances cheques will still be issued by the federal government. As regards the second part of the question, the amount of the cheques may vary from one province to the other depending on the provincial legislation provided, first, that no child gets less than \$12 and, second, that the average for all children in one province works out to \$20 so that if a province should reduce the amount sent to one child this amount will be automatically increased for the other children in this province so that the average be \$20 per child in the province.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I realize that we will discuss this question later on, but it is important for the information of the people.

Does the minister mean that the family allowances cheques for each province will be issued by Ottawa, after an agreement with the province?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as in the past all family allowances cheques will be issued by the federal government for each of the provinces.

[Mr. Clarke (Vancouver Quadra).]

[*English*]

**ENERGY****PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY GAS PIPELINE—INQUIRY AS TO UNITED STATES INTEREST**

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, might I ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether the government of the United States has inquired as to the interest of the Canadian government with regard to a joint Mackenzie Valley pipeline to carry Prudhoe Bay gas? Has the U.S. government requested any information as to the possible conditions governing such a pipeline?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Discussions have taken place with United States officials over the last several years regarding a gas pipeline route. There is an extensive record there. Indeed, there has been an exchange both of inquiries and responses in this regard.

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**LABOUR RELATIONS****DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—ALLEGED DISCREPANCY IN SUBMISSION OF COMPANY—REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT INTERVENE**

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport and it relates to the railway labour dispute currently in progress. In view of allegations made by the union that there were discrepancies in the submissions made by the railway company to the arbitration board, can the minister tell us whether he has asked his officials to look into this point and thereby remove this obstacle to a solution of this dispute?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** These people enjoy autonomy as far as the conduct of negotiations is concerned. In the event of a dispute it is dealt with by the Minister of Labour, but I do not see why I should intervene and tell the company what they should or should not do.

**DISPUTE WITH NON-OPERATING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES—REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION OF MINISTER OF LABOUR**

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A question to the Minister of Labour, Mr. Speaker, who I believe is within earshot, or, at least, he was a few moments ago.

**Mr. Bell:** The shot part is right.

**Mr. McGrath:** My supplementary is to the Minister of Labour. In view of this very serious allegation, and in view of the failure of the conciliation board to reach agreement, and, further, in view of the fact that as a consequence thereof both parties are irreconcilably separated, is the minister now prepared to exercise the responsibilities he has under the statute and intervene personally in an attempt to end this strike which could easily take place as of next Saturday?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** I am certainly prepared to exercise my responsibility. Whether