

suggestions which I think will be made that the discussions tomorrow and on Thursday be open to the media and the public?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I will be glad to consider that.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

MEASURES TO PROTECT CANADIAN LUMBERMEN WORKING IN MAINE

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question which is supplementary to that of my colleague, the hon. member for Bellechasse. It is directed to the President of the Privy Council, a former Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Could he advise the House whether the problem Canadian forest workers are faced with in connection with the United States has been discussed by the cabinet and what action, if any, the government will take to correct this situation which I suggest is covered by the provision of the Immigration Act governing seasonal workers under contract who are staying in a foreign country?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, when I was secretary of state for external affairs problems of this kind were discussed in the department. I find myself in general agreement with my colleagues, however, that these are the laws of the United States. However, I will get in touch with the Secretary of State for External Affairs when he returns and will ask him to see if there is anything useful that the Canadian government might do.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Privy Council.

On behalf of the government, could he advise the House whether forest workers under long and medium term contracts will be able to work till the end of their contracts, so that these petty quarrels may be settled as soon as possible?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether our authority would extend in that direction. But I understand that there is some problem there and I can assure the hon. member we will inquire into it to see if there is anything useful that could be done.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—EFFECT OF GUIDELINES ON DIVIDEND PAYMENTS

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions

Under Bill C-73 while wages are not frozen, dividends are, shall we say, limited to the pay-out during the preceding fiscal year. Will the minister advise the House whether this is a roll-back or whether this includes dividends declared in 1974 but payable in 1975, and if it is a total freeze will he advise how he expects Canadian investors to maintain their investments and not invest in U.S. stocks that are freely available to them and on which there is no roll-back or freeze?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I want to check again to see whether this is on a cash or accrual basis. In general terms, however, the intention would be that absolute dividend levels not be increased over the last completed fiscal year.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): In actual fact is it the 1974 level of dividends that is frozen, or is it to include dividend levels of 1975 which may be higher having been declared and payable in 1975, because if it is a freeze then the minister knows what the consequences are?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I would be glad to seek precision on that.

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ENERGY

SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF OPERATION

Mr. Stan Schumacher (Palliser): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the minister say whether or not the Sarnia-Montreal oil pipeline is being constructed according to schedule, and is he satisfied that it is proceeding properly? If so, when might we expect to find some oil actually travelling by pipeline between Sarnia and Montreal?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the last word I had on that was that there should be oil flowing through that pipeline early next year.

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FISHERIES

ALLEGED REDUCTION IN SURVEILLANCE BY PATROL VESSELS ON WEST COAST—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Fisheries). In view of the alarming reports that 29 of the 30 fishing patrol vessels on the west coast are to be immobilized for lack of operating funds, and as 20 Japanese and Polish trawlers are at present in the vicinity of the 12 mile line, can the minister detail what steps he is taking to ensure that our 12 mile fishing zones are adequately patrolled?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where these reports come from, but there has been no decision to reduce the level of surveillance on either coast at present.