

Oral Questions

row afternoon to debate it. I will, therefore, put the motion.

Has the hon. member leave to move the motion for the purpose of discussing the matter stated?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is agreed. Subject to consultation with House leaders, as I indicated a moment ago, the proposed motion will stand over until three o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY
INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of his statement yesterday that he could not say whether or not he will be making a statement this week or next on whether or not the government will be announcing some new measures with regard to inflation control or whether it will be introducing emergency measures to help those on fixed incomes. The Prime Minister could not give an answer to that question yesterday. I would ask him whether he can provide the House with an answer today, before he leaves to meet his friends in Vancouver.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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ENERGY
OIL AND GAS—POSSIBLE TWO PRICE SYSTEM—DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who has told the House that he is having consultations with the provinces regarding a pricing policy on oil and gas. I should like to ask the minister whether he has made a definite proposal to the provinces with regard to pricing policy on oil and/or gas, or both.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not made a definite proposal but I have discussed at least with the western provinces—and I expect to meet the rest of the provinces during the next ten days—the problems particularly posed with regard to the impact of external prices on Canadian price levels for both oil and natural gas. I might say that I have had from the provinces a variety of viewpoints on this question.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Stanfield: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister whether he has made definite proposals to the provinces regarding a two-price system for oil or gas? Has he made any such definite proposal?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I would refer the hon. gentleman to the various options stated in the energy analysis.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY
POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF SELECTIVE CONTROLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in view of the price situation and in view of the increasing concern of Canadians about prices and living costs and their concern and perhaps frustration because nothing is being done about this, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government is considering selective price controls in such areas as some basic foods, interest rates, oil and gasoline prices—

Mr. Fairweather: Wages.

Mr. Lewis:—and products that go into the production of housing and the like, such as lumber and steel. May I ask the Prime Minister whether consideration is being given to selective controls in important areas affecting the cost of living.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party is asking me a very general question about whether consideration is being given. I can only answer generally, yes, Mr. Speaker. I have said many times to the House, as has the Minister of Finance, that we have been looking at plans for various forms of price and income and wage controls; so, we have been giving a great deal of consideration to these matters. I should like to add that I would not want the House or the country to draw any conclusions as to those decisions or as to what form of control we would implement if, indeed, we decided to proceed with any form of control.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD
POSSIBLE STRENGTHENING OF POWERS OF BOARD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister whether any action is being contemplated, particularly in view of the position indicated by one spokesman for the Conservative party yesterday that his party is now prepared to support putting teeth, I think those were the words, in to the food prices review board and making it more effective? I heard that for the first time yesterday. Is the government considering legislation to render the food prices review board an effective agency to lower food prices or at least keep them from going still higher?