

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE MINISTRY

INQUIRY WHETHER NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
WILL SOON BE ANNOUNCED

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

Is it exact that with his well known charisma he has now succeeded in overcoming the resistance of the Minister of the Environment and bringing her into the labyrinth of communications?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, all ministers are very interested in the communications problem and, as I had the opportunity of stating to the press yesterday, several backbenchers could do an excellent job as ministers of communications.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Can the Prime Minister advise the House today whether the appointment has already been agreed upon by the Cabinet?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will understand that until the Governor General has sworn in a new minister, it is not customary to disclose the name of this minister.

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[English]

PUBLISHING

POSSIBILITY OF ACTION TO PROTECT CANADIAN
SHAREHOLDERS IN "READER'S DIGEST"

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the serious adverse effect present legislation, Bill C-58, will have on the value of stocks held by 600 Canadian citizens in *Reader's Digest* (Canada), will the government take action to protect their equity which amounts to about 32 per cent of the ownership of the company?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I apologize; the import of the question escaped me. I will take notice of it and try to answer, unless the hon. member wants to ask the question again.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister did not get the import of my question, may I repeat it. In view of the serious adverse effect of his present legislation, Bill C-58, upon the value of stocks held by 600 Canadian citizens in *Reader's Digest* (Canada), will his government take any action to protect their equity which amounts to about 32 per cent of the ownership? Three years ago, this stock was worth \$32.50 on the market. This morning it is worth \$7.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in order to even consider the question, one would have to know to what the serious adverse effect is due. I have no means of knowing what is

[Mr. Hees.]

going to happen to *Reader's Digest* or to any other magazine in Canada. If I were playing the stock market, I would take my own chances.

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AGRICULTURE

COW-CALF STABILIZATION PROGRAM—DATE PROGRAM
EFFECTIVE—FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the congenial Minister of Agriculture. In view of the continuing difficulties of cow-calf operators, which the minister knows are very serious, can he tell us whether he has the Christmas spirit and can guarantee that he expects the federal cow-calf stabilization program to be in effect in this country after the new year?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nystrom: May I ask Scrooge whether he has secured agreement in principle between the provinces and the federal government on the broad details of such a program. If not, can he tell us whether any of the provinces are opposed to such a program?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we have an ongoing committee of federal and provincial officials discussing this which will be discussed further at the Outlook Conference. There will be a full ministerial meeting on December 17 to discuss all the possibilities of stabilization and what kind of program we should be developing. We hope to develop a program for beef producers for the calendar year January 1 to December 31, 1976, some time in the future.

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FINANCE

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION IMPOSING EXPORT
TAX

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): My question is addressed to the House leader. A month ago the Minister of Finance indicated to the House that he planned to introduce legislation to impose export taxes on all export companies. He promised to have this in before Christmas. Will this be coming in before Christmas?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this matter is now under discussion. It is the intention to introduce some resolutions along these lines before the House adjourns for the Christmas break.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ISRAELI ATTACK ON REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON—
POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST BY CANADA

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the lucid and articulate Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. It