

Oral Questions

[English]

GRAIN

SHORTAGE OF FEED GRAIN ON VANCOUVER ISLAND—
EMERGENCY PLANS IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING STRIKE BY
SOME RAILWAY WORKERS

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the continuing rail strike in British Columbia, has the government any emergency plans to get feed grain to Vancouver Island to solve the very serious problems of the poultry and dairy industry in that area?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may be aware, the only hold-out situation is in the city of Vancouver proper and certainly not in British Columbia generally by any means. Prince Rupert is open, and I am hopeful that by the time this day is over the situation in Vancouver may be clarified. In that sense the hon. member's question may, hopefully, be premature.

SHORTAGE OF FEED GRAIN ON VANCOUVER ISLAND—
REQUEST THAT EXPORT SUPPLIES BE MADE AVAILABLE
AT DOMESTIC PRICES

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the fact there is already feed grain on Vancouver Island meant for export, will the minister give the Wheat Board a directive to sell this feed grain already on Vancouver Island at domestic prices instead of export prices in order to solve the very serious problem of the poultry and dairy industries?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): I will not purport to give the Canadian Wheat Board such a directive. It has already on its own initiative been making grain available which had been intended for export and holding it where it seemed that it was needed for the domestic situation, but of course it has to protect the grain producers as well in terms of the prices it charges.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister and is supplementary to a previous question. In view of the government's constant refusal even to consider the building of a Toronto-Montreal pipeline for several years and right up to the present time, is not the reason for the present change in policy solely to try to get NDP support for its non-policy in fighting inflation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Victoria.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

VICTORIA, B.C.—POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF HOSPITAL FROM
FEDERAL AUTHORITY—REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION
OF VIEWS OF VETERANS

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Since the veterans in my constituency are disturbed by persistent rumours that the veterans hospital in Victoria is to be transferred to provincial and regional authority, can the minister reassure the House and the veterans of Victoria that the views of the rank and file veterans and patients will be given first consideration before a final decision is made?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that normally a question such as this should be on the order paper or considered at the time of adjournment. If there is an answer which the minister can give quickly he will be recognized for that purpose.

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to assure the hon. member that before any contract is signed with the municipality or otherwise that the guaranteeing of the veterans' well-being will be looked after.

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HOUSING

PREVENTION OF RENT INCREASES FOLLOWING
INCREASES IN OLD AGE SECURITY AND GUARANTEED
INCOME SUPPLEMENT PAYMENTS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Has the minister, following the increases in OAS and GIS payments, developed measures, either independently or in co-operation with the provinces, to contain and discourage rent increases in order to protect the recipients of these pensions from having their slight increases appropriated by landlords, which has happened often in the past? If so, will these measures be made public soon?

● (1450)

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in respect of those properties owned by CMHC there has been a rent freeze in effect since early this year. In respect of those under the control of the provincial housing authorities, in which we bear part of the cost of any rental subsidy, most have been under a freeze for quite some time. Having regard to those that are privately owned, of course we have no direct authority over them and any control would rest with the provinces.

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT ON ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN
FINANCING OF STUDENT CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Would he advise the House whether his inquiry into alleged irregularities in respect of the financing of student