

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville on a final supplementary.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the statistics the minister has enumerated before, such as on budget night, but the concern I have now is the slowdown in the last quarter. There is a slowdown in business capital expansion by corporations. I ask the minister whether we can expect any new programs that would encourage the corporations of this country to spend more money on labour-intensive industries than on capital-intensive industries.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, because of the risk of slowdown in the economy which is reflected in the current figures, the stimulus was added on budget night for the 1975-76 year. I did point out to the House on budget night that because of the current thrust in the economy for 1974-75 it is expected that business capital investment will be intensified. Later calculations which we have, thanks to the survey taken by my colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce as late as July, and recent indications, show that business capital investment is holding up.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

INQUIRY WHETHER SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER WILL APPEAR ON FAMILY ALLOWANCE CHEQUES IN 1975—POSSIBLE INCREASE IN BENEFITS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare, I should like to put a question to his parliamentary secretary.

Will there be any changes in the family allowances cheques from January 1975, that is, will the social insurance numbers of parents or husband and wife appear on these cheques?

[English]

Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure there will be a change according to the cost of living index, so far as the family allowance is concerned, if the existing legislation is followed. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I shall take notice of it.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

STRIKE OF GRAIN INSPECTORS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE SUPPLY TO EASTERN CONSUMERS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour arising out of the implications of the grain inspectors' strike and the availability to eastern consumers of western grain. Would the minister agree that this is a very serious situation, and would he tell us what steps he is taking in view of the closing of the Seaway, which compli-

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

cates the problem, to settle the dispute in a fair and equitable manner so that eastern consumers will not be unduly affected?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be aware that the President of the Treasury Board is responsible for the negotiations in respect to this particular dispute. I am sure that he will be pleased to answer the question.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary may I put the same question to the President of the Treasury Board? While the minister is on his feet, would he mind outlining to the House what measures he intends to take, or has taken, in respect of this matter?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I told the House last Friday that a mediator had been appointed on Thursday. He has met both parties and the negotiations are still going on. We hope that he will soon be able to bring the union and the government to an agreement. But there is not much we can do at this moment, since these workers have the right to go on strike under a legislation of the Parliament of Canada. Depending upon the report Mr. O'Connor will make to us within a few days, we shall see what other steps could be taken.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO FACILITATE GRAIN MOVEMENT THIS WINTER

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Transport. Would the minister outline to the House what means he has taken, or what contingency plans he has, to facilitate the movement of grain this winter—particularly in view of the imminent closing of the Seaway—in order that eastern consumers will not find themselves in an under-supply situation? What specific plans does he have?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be in the public interest to reveal the plans we have at this stage.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

MINISTER'S ESTIMATE OF RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN VIEW OF LEVELLING-OFF OF GNP

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that there has been no growth in the last two quarters, is the minister revising his estimate of the rate of economic growth of the country, or is he sticking with the 4 per cent or 4½ per cent figure?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am still sticking with the estimate I gave of real