

Oral Questions

of the rules is that we should try to work together as civilized people.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that members of the House are human and that they can feel very irritated, sometimes rightly so, in connection with statements made outside the House if there is provocation which might lead them to use words stronger than those they would otherwise use. I am sure this is what happened in the case of the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate who feels very strongly in connection about fisheries matters. He feels the statement made by the Minister of the Environment and Fisheries outside the House was not in conformity with the facts. I think it is always possible to tell the House that a statement made outside is not in conformity with the facts, perhaps in the same way as the hon. member for Comox-Alberni did—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker:—but to use stronger language and, to my way of thinking, unparliamentary language, can only lead to difficulties such as we have experienced this afternoon. I shall continue to give the matter serious consideration, but I insist that I do not intend to allow the standards of parliamentary language to deteriorate. If we were to allow the House to follow the road it appears to wish to embark on this afternoon we would be doing a disservice to parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ENERGY**PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—EFFECT OF LEVEL OF INVESTMENT ON DOLLAR, INTEREST RATES AND EXPORTS**

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to change the topic and ask the Minister of Finance a supplementary question on the subject of energy. In view of the evidence that increased exports of gas and oil and the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline will probably exert upward pressure on the Canadian dollar, making our other exports less competitive, as well as contributing to higher interest rates, has the minister established a system to monitor the level of investment in energy in Canada to determine how it might affect the level of the dollar, interest rates and exports?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): It is my view that any energy project of the magnitude referred to by the hon. member could be orchestrated in such a way as not to produce undue pressures either on our interest rates or on exchange rates.

Mr. Nystrom: In view of possible heavy investment in James Bay, the tar sands and pipeline development in the next few years, sums of the order of tens of billions of dollars, can the minister tell us whether he is conducting

[Mr. Speaker.]

any studies of the impact of such major developments on the economy and on employment?

● (1520)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing the effect on Canadian capital markets of projects of the type and how they ought to be brought into operation without producing, as I said, undue pressure either on our dollar or on the economy.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize for having to interrupt the hon. member but the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. McCain: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I misunderstood but I did not understand that the subject was going to change as abruptly as it did. I rise on a point of privilege because I wish this to go on the record. Since the remarks attributed to the Minister of the Environment were made in my constituency, I want it abundantly clear that at no time could he associate me in any way with any remarks relating to this limit. Any remarks made in that regard bear little relationship to the truth or to remarks I have made in my constituency, in this House and in committee.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River.

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD**ALLEGED INADEQUACY OF TERMS OF REFERENCE—POSSIBLE DISCUSSION IN HOUSE**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of which I am now giving him verbal notice. In light of the extraordinary emptiness of the terms of reference of the Board, respecting which he tabled an order today, is the minister prepared to refer this matter to the House so as to improve both the quality and the quantity of those terms of reference?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the hon. member's premise. The concept of the board was approved by a strong majority of this House. The important thing is to let the board get down to work in the interests of the Canadian people generally.

Mr. Baldwin: A supplementary question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that earlier today the Minister of Finance hinted that the first ministers conference approved the lack of policy of this government in regard to inflation, will the Prime Minister give consideration to assuring that the next extravaganza is televised so the people will know what they are getting for their money?