Oral Questions

RESOURCES

SUGGESTION CANADIAN STEEL COMPANIES ESTABLISH IRON ORE PELLET SOURCE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that the three large steel companies in Canada, that is Stelco, Dofasco and Algoma, have made the decision to tie into the high cost iron ore pellet source from the United States, has the government made any approach to the governments of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to push for an integrated pelletizing operation in northwestern Ontario so we can keep our steel prices lower in Canada than in the United States?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have been informed that there have been discussions in respect of certain deposits in northern Ontario which might be used by Canadian mills in various parts of Canada, not just from Ontario. As to whether those particular firms have given recent consideration to the proposal put forward by the hon. member, I cannot say, but I would be very pleased to find out and let him know.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, when the minister is looking into this subject will he discuss with officials of his own department, who I know for the last two or three years have been supporting this type of integrated operation with the steel plants in the three prairie provinces, the possibility of gaining access to these very rich iron ore deposits in northwestern Ontario?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, we have already had this kind of discussion.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—STATEMENT BY MR. WELLS THAT TEACHERS SHOULD IGNORE WAGE GUIDELINES DURING NEGOTIATIONS—MINISTER'S POSITIONS

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance and arises from remarks by the Ontario Minister of Education, Mr. Wells, in connection with contract negotiations involving Metro-Toronto teachers. Can the minister inform the House whether, in the case of Toronto teachers and, indeed, in other similar situations, he endorses Mr. Wells' view that contract negotiations should proceed between employers and their employees without regard, at least initially, to potential complications that may arise from the federal government's guidelines on wage and salary increases?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I might perhaps put it in a different way. I would say that the fact that we do have the guidelines and the restraint program outstanding should not prevent parties from getting down to the bargaining table. We hope they will be guided at the bargaining table by the fact that the

guidelines and the request have been put out to all Canadians to restrain their demands on the economy. Of course, when they do have a completed contract, and this is on the assumption, firstly, that the bill is approved by the House and, secondly, that the Ontario government is prepared to enter into an agreement under the bill to give responsibility to the federal government in this area, that contract should be brought forward for the scrutiny of the Anti-Inflation Board, if that seems appropriate at the time

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—ADVISABILITY OF PAYING WAGES HIGHER THAN GUIDELINES WITHOUT CONSENT OF BOARD

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree with Mr. Wells in saying that once an agreement is reached between the school board and the teachers the school board should pay the higher compensation without the consent of the Anti-Inflation Board?

Hon. Donald Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, my advice to the school boards or, indeed, to any other organization in Canada, is that if there be any doubt in this regard in respect of the contract being entered into they should confine themselves to the payment of the guideline limits and should be seeking advice as to any excess that might be payable.

Mr. Baldwin: Maybe they started discussing it last July.

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD—LENGTH OF TIME TO DEAL WITH

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree with Mr. Wells that it will take approximately a year and a half before a case can go before the Anti-Inflation Board because of the lengthy appeal procedures?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker. I think the Ontario minister misunderstood the procedure. The board can, of course, conduct a quick scrutiny of the situation and, in appropriate cases, refer the matter to the administrator. The onus will then be on the party ordered against to change the decision, but the decision will stand and the party will be bound by it until the appeal tribunal determines otherwise.

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

FUNDING OF ORGANIZATIONS AIDING JUVENILE DELINQUENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General a question.

Since some organizations in the constituency of Hochelaga are already dealing with the prevention of juvenile delinquency and also with the possibility of providing jobs for ex-inmates, could the Solicitor General tell the House whether those organizations could get some financial assistance from his department to achieve their goals?