

Oral Questions

damages for the destruction of nets and other fishing gear by shipping and, specifically, to assist fishermen who it is alleged lost several hundred dollars worth of nets each recently because the gear was run over by a Greek freighter approaching Vancouver off the mouth of the Fraser River?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Yes, Mr. Speaker, that particular matter is under investigation in the department.

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FINANCE**INQUIRY AS TO CHANGE IN GOLD PRICING IN LIGHT OF FREE MARKET PRICE**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As the price of gold on the free market has been two and a half times the official price, does the government intend to make any change in gold pricing, particularly before the meeting of the IMF in Nairobi later this month?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the exact commodity to which the hon. member was referring.

Mr. Ritchie: Gold.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Gold? No, Mr. Speaker.

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HEALTH**SUGGESTED INSTITUTION OF INSURED MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES FOR OLD AGE PENSIONERS AND OTHERS ON LOW INCOMES**

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the galloping increase in the cost of living is particularly severe on old age pensioners and those on low incomes, hitting hardest of all those suffering from chronic illness and in many cases requiring expensive services, would the minister consider instituting insured medical and surgical supplies for those people, thus fulfilling the recommendation of the Hall Commission report on national medicare?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the federal government is already sharing on a 50 per cent basis any help given to people in need under the Canada Assistance Plan. At the same time, the government has a firm commitment vis-à-vis the provinces that no new joint program is going to be initiated in this particular area without the development of a consensus with the provinces.

[Mr. MacLean.]

CONSUMER PACKAGING AND LABELLING ACT**GOVERNMENT INTENTION RESPECTING PUBLICATION OF REGULATIONS AND PROCLAMATION**

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact the Food Prices Review Board, apparently with the minister's consent, has sent over 80 researchers across the country to investigate certain practices of food retailers, would the minister tell the House whether he has given up on the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act which would have permitted departmental investigations of this sort but for the fact that the minister has yet not published the draft regulations so that the act can be proclaimed and be in force?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the board does not need my consent to carry out its mandate, in the way the hon. member suggests. I hope to see the draft regulations published in the *Canada Gazette* shortly when the work of translation is completed.

Mr. Atkey: May I ask the minister if he can give the House the assurance that the draft regulations will be published and the act proclaimed and in force at least by the third anniversary of its passage in the House on March 17, 1974?

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FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD**REASON FOR HIRING OF RESEARCHERS**

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the minister's repeated assurances that the department has been carrying on research over several months into the activities now undertaken by the Food Prices Review Board, can he tell the House the real reason for the existence of Plumtre's posse?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I hope that my hon. friend will read the statement I made at the time of the announcement of the board's terms of reference—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Order!

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that the hon. member's call for order is in itself disorder. The hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie.

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ENERGY**PROPOSED OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—PROVISION OF BENEFICIAL COMPETITION AND SECURITY FOR CONSUMERS**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and