

Oral Questions

YOUTH

ALLEGED ABANDONMENT OF PROGRAMS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State and is related to my motion under Standing Order 43. I should like to ask whether the minister intends to make an early statement outlining the reasons behind the abandonment by his department of youth programs?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there has been no abandonment by my department of youth programs, and I think the hon. member knows that. I think what he really wants to know is when an announcement will be made about the student summer employment program. There will be an announcement made in that regard, I suspect, sometime in January.

Mr. Rose: In view of the fact that after two years there has been no youth report and the Opportunities for Youth Program is about to be transferred to the Department of Manpower and Immigration and therefore there is no youth policy or program, will the minister please indicate whether the problems in this regard have to do with in-fighting in his department, incompetence on the part of the minister or both?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Do you still beat your wife?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question asked in those terms is obviously not in order.

* * *

FINANCE

MONETARY REFORM—INFLATION—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CONSIDERATION BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Would he be prepared to make a statement to the House this coming week reporting on the progress or lack thereof being made by the Committee of 20 in dealing with international monetary reform? This is a longstanding problem and the minister has been particularly silent on it. In addition, will he see what efforts are being made in relation to the World Bank, and whether there is some formula for combatting inflation other than extraordinarily high interest rates because in Canada we have had a further increase in the bank prime rate?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, dealing with the latter point first, I made that point at the last meeting in Nairobi, that is, the effect of high interest rate structures of certain major industrial nations on other countries. As the hon. gentleman will recall, I made a report to the House when I came back from that meeting. The next meeting of the Group of 20 will be in Rome on January 17 and 18, and I would think

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

the appropriate time to report to the House would be at the earliest opportunity after that date.

* * *

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN POLICY RESPECTING ISRAEL AND ARAB STATES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

As all Commonwealth countries except Canada have already rejected Israeli claims to Arab territories taken over through violence, can the minister tell us whether he intends to apply, in the near future, a Canadian policy that agrees with that of the other countries of the Commonwealth?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday in the House of Commons, the policy of Canada with respect to the Middle East conflict was expressed by me in the House on October 16, and I have no intention of changing it.

* * *

[Translation]

ENERGY

REQUEST THAT SALES TAX ON FIREWOOD BE ABOLISHED

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

As is reported on page 8670 of *Hansard*, he said last Wednesday, in reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Central Nova, that if the people in Quebec and the other eastern provinces find the cost of oil too high, they do not have to buy it. Mr. Speaker, will the right hon. Prime Minister then recommend to the Minister of Finance that he abolish the sales tax on firewood?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has certainly misunderstood the reply and the question. The question was: What will the government do to lower offshore prices? I replied that we could do nothing to prevent the Arab countries and Venezuela from selling us their oil at the price that they judge adequate. As for the hon. member's request, I shall put it down on the agenda of our discussions with the eastern provinces, and I repeat that the equalization system will be of great help to the provinces. They will also profit from the income tax on the new family allowances and I believe that this will bring them about \$125 million.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the hon. member that he be more considerate towards federal taxpayers and not try to lay on them the burden of the provinces.

Mr. Speaker: Order.