

Oral Questions

government would be moving its oil price up by \$2 per barrel on July 1; nor had I advocated it. I had observed that if the price were to rise by \$2 per barrel on July 1 of this year, it would be below the U.S. price. Let me be precise on this. I was comparing, as of July 1 this year, the U.S. price in Chicago and the Canadian price in Toronto, after due allowance has been made for the prevailing rate of exchange of the U.S. dollar.

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FINANCE**EFFECT OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF OIL ON MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. According to the United States Federal Energy Agency the prices, with the 95 cent Canadian dollar, would be exactly equivalent; if the rise were to be over \$2, the price would be higher in Canada than in the United States. May I direct the following question to the Minister of Finance? Given that there is likely to be an increase in oil prices which will have an important effect on Canadian domestic manufacturing and make it less competitive in international trade, is the minister considering giving any advantage of any sort, through the introduction of any measures, to offset this rise in price and so help to keep Canadian manufacturing more competitive?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are anticipating the introduction of a budget within several days and it would obviously be difficult for me to respond to that question at this point.

Mr. Stevens: Why?

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ENERGY**OIL—DATE DRILLING REGULATIONS FOR FEDERAL LANDS AVAILABLE**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, I return to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources for a final supplementary question. If the new price is to have any effect, it must operate within the regulations. Can the minister tell the House if the government's drilling regulations applying to federal lands—this has nothing to do with the provinces—will be available by September, this year.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I answered in some detail a question to that effect in the Standing Committee this morning, and I recommend to the hon. member a reading of my answer.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

FINANCE**PROPOSED REDUCTION IN EXCISE TAX ON GASOLINE—EFFECT OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF OIL ON EXPORT TRADE**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance? In view of the surplus the oil subsidization program is currently running will the minister tell the House whether, if oil prices go up to a point where the gasoline excise tax is no longer required, he will consider a reduction of the tax, independently of any action he may take in the budget? I point out to the minister that in committee this morning the Minister of National Revenue said that since the ten cent tax was imposed on July 1, 1975, it has generated \$1,025,570.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that such a question, will I do something if a certain price goes up, is purely hypothetical.

Mr. Darling: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to undertake an investigation of the effect that the anticipated oil price rise will have on our international competitiveness and, if so, will he report his findings to the House, or have the whole matter referred to the appropriate standing committee of the House?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the economic effect of an oil price increase is always estimated.

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MANPOWER**YOUNG CANADA WORKS PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDS AND OTHER MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE STUDENT UNEMPLOYMENT**

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Since the Prime Minister has been giving liberal advice to students at the recent Liberals' thinkers conference, since this year summer employment opportunities for students will be non-existent, let alone full time employment opportunities, and since the Young Canada Works program will provide only 12,000 jobs, can the Prime Minister tell the House if he is prepared to increase the Young Canada Works funding, to provide a far greater number of jobs, or what leadership he is prepared to give this country with respect to the serious problem of student unemployment?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it has been indicated before that the budget which is coming later this week will attempt to attack all of Canada's evils, including that of unemployment.

SUGGESTION STUDENT SUMMER EMPLOYMENT SURVEY BE REINSTITUTED

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, it is obvious I am not going to get any answers from the Prime Minister. I will therefore go to the Minister of Manpower and