

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, that is exactly the position of the government. The fact is there is no aberration of the anti-inflation guidelines. The increases proposed to the Anti-Inflation Board are completely within the guidelines. There is no special treatment and there are no extraordinary circumstances. While there is a fair degree of complexity in the calculation of the salary account, main estimates to main estimates which the question period would not permit me time to detail, I am sending all hon. members a more detailed elaboration of exactly how this takes place.

Had the reporters taken the responsibility to check out the story, this very damaging and erroneous impression would not have been left across the country. I hope that when the media receive the explanation which I am sending them today, they will give the same prominence—that is, headlines on the front pages of the newspapers and prominence in other media—as they gave the erroneous story on Friday.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

## REVIEW OF RATE OF INFLATION

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that matter has been cleared up. I will now ask the Minister of Finance a question. In light of the fact that inflation is now running at approximately 9 per cent or more, and given the fact that the Minister of Finance, in an arbitrary way, picked the figure of 6 per cent out of the air—I believe some time last year—is that figure under review at this time, in light of the hardship experienced by many Canadians suffering as a result of the incompetence of this government?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am not about to review those figures. If one looks at the internal inflation figures within the Canadian economy, internal inflation last year was 6.2 per cent.

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**NATURAL RESOURCES**

## CANADIAN OWNERSHIP THEREOF

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister regarding a commitment he made during the federal election campaign of 1974. In June of that year, the Prime Minister made a commitment with respect to Canadian ownership of resource industries, in the following words:

The Liberal party of Canada sets as an objective that major new projects in the natural resource field should have at least 50 per cent, and preferably 60 per cent, Canadian equity ownership.

I ask the Prime Minister if that commitment still stands with reference to the launching of new resource industries or the transfer of Canadian-owned industries to non-resident Canadians? Is that commitment still in operation?

[Mr. Alexander.]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the commitment as it was made still stands.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that Saturday's Toronto *Star* claims to have a document that was issued last January, signed by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, in which he outlines four options with respect to Canadian ownership—one of which is that the 50 per cent to 60 per cent Canadian ownership clause be dropped, with the stipulation that no public statement be made regarding it unless the public should think that the government had made a retreat—I ask the Prime Minister if he can assure the House that before there is any change with respect to this ownership commitment, the government will make a public announcement; and secondly, if this 50 per cent to 60 per cent provision will obtain when the matter of the acquisition of the Husky Oil Company is before FIRA and before the cabinet.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member refers to a document which I do not remember seeing, and certainly which is not before me now. I am not surprised that documents follow the guidance I issued in their presentation to cabinet. In other words, it presents the government with several alternatives, rather than presenting it with a solution which is sometimes inspired by the civil service as opposed to giving the politicians a choice between several options. I am happy to see that the document to which the hon. member referred has respected these guidelines and is giving some options.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has done everything except answer the question.

**Mr. Alexander:** That is typical.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I asked him, will he assure the House, in view of the comments of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce about keeping any decisions secret, that if there is to be any change with respect to the Canadian ownership provisions, a public announcement will be made and that commitment will stand when the whole question of the acquisition of Husky Oil company is before FIRA and before the cabinet.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asks me what we will do if something happens. I think that even he will recognize that that is a hypothetical question.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## AID TO ZAIRE

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Canada has announced that it will participate in a western aid package to Zaire, a total package of \$116 million, of which Canada will