

Oral Questions

● (1440)

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): As soon as he gets back from Tokyo he will be tackling this particular measure.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for St. John's East for one last supplementary on this series of questions, and then the hon. member for Calgary North who has a supplementary on a previous subject.

TIGHT MONEY POLICY—PRIOR CONSULTATION ON EFFECT ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION PROGRAMS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact that high interest rates and the tight money policy now being pursued by the government are counterproductive to the government's DREE policy, may I ask the minister if there was any consultation between himself, the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Canada before the latter embarked on this tight money policy?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there are constant consultations between myself and the Minister of Finance with regard to various measures to assist the areas of slow growth in this country.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

NOVA SCOTIA—NEW INITIATIVES IN LIGHT OF RESIGNATION OF PROVINCIAL MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of continuing frustrations with regional development, best exemplified by the resignation of Mr. Fiske, Minister of Development for the province of Nova Scotia, who gave as one of the reasons for his resignation the performance of DREE, has the minister any new initiatives to announce such as calling on the Atlantic Development Council to deal with these continuing problems?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I, of course, cannot accept the premise of the question. The reasons why provincial ministers resign are completely outside my purview. But on the latter part of the question may I say this is certainly a possibility. As I believe the hon. member knows, I have made an appointment with the new chairman of the Atlantic Development Council and have asked him what he considers to be the best forum or best area for discussion. I should add that within the next few weeks, some time during this month, I will be meeting with the Council of Maritime Premiers on the same subject.

[Mr. Nystrom.]

OPERATING POSITION OF METROPOLITAN AREA GROWTH INVESTMENT LIMITED

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister whether Metropolitan Area Growth Investment Limited, the joint federal-provincial Crown corporation formed some months ago, is now fully operative with all executive officers in place and with ongoing functions? If so, when can we expect a progress report?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, there is an interim board of directors at the moment. We have made a recommendation to the government of Nova Scotia with regard to a chief executive officer. It is now a matter for the government of Nova Scotia to indicate whether it is prepared to accept our nominee, because it must be done on the basis of federal-provincial agreement.

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ENERGY

POSSIBLE VETO BY QUEBEC OF PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—EFFECT ON CEILING ON CRUDE PETROLEUM PRICE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources with respect to the policy enunciated by the minister for the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan and the Islands. If the pipeline to be built to Montreal is not going to be built because of a veto by one province, will the policy as to the ceiling on the price of crude petroleum remain the same irrespective of whether that project goes ahead?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not correct in his assumption. We indicated we would be having discussions with the provinces, and in the next several days I will be having discussions with the two provinces in question. The decision does remain in principle in favour of a Montreal connection. Therefore the second part of the question does not follow.

Mr. Woolliams: Would the minister make this very clear when he meets with the provincial ministers of Alberta and indeed of Quebec, neither of which provinces he consulted prior to the statement made on Tuesday of last week; because according to the national media Quebec did veto the project?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the hon. member. Make what clear?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre.