

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[Translation]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****INFLATION—MEASURES TO RESTRAIN INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES**

**Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but, as he is not here, I shall direct it to the Acting Prime Minister.

Considering that the cost of living continues to increase and that the rise in the consumer price index is mainly due to the price of food, would the minister tell the House whether the government intends to intervene in some way in order to curb the increase in food prices?

**Mr. Speaker:** Once again, I feel that the hon. member's question is rather general. Normally such a question would call for a statement on motions. The government may wish to consider the suggestion made by the hon. member for Compton.

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[English]

**OIL****PROPOSED WEST COAST TANKER ROUTE—POSITION AND NATURE OF DISCUSSIONS**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Is there anything going on these days between Canada and the United States regarding the proposed tanker route down the west coast from Alaska? The last report was of a meeting of officials and it was indicated they did not have enough information to make any findings. Have there been further consultations or active work undertaken on the part of Canadian ministers or officials of the government on this subject in their relationship with the United States?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, there are no meetings scheduled between ministers. However, studies are continuing on environmental conditions and the impact of oil spills in Puget Sound and Georgia Strait.

**Mr. Stanfield:** What is the nature of these discussions and studies? Are they joint studies that are being made by Canadian officials in association with United States officials, are the studies being made by the United States officials, or are they being made by our officials?

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, there are studies on both sides of the line being carried out independently. I would have to add that they are being pushed more energetically on our side of the line than in the U.S.A.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Naturally, I would hope so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Yukon on a supplementary. We have reached the end of the question period but I will allow two or three additional short questions following the supplementary.

[Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean).]

**PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF PETITION OF OLD CROW INDIANS TO COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the government House leader which relates to the petition tabled earlier of the Old Crow Indian people concerning their land rights. Has the minister yet consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in order to ascertain whether the government is going to permit the Old Crow people to be heard by referring their petition to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the hon. member, I intended to confer with my colleague on this point. However, as is known, he has been absent for the past several days as he is in the west on public business. As soon as he returns I will deal with this matter.

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**FISHERIES****SALMON—ACTION TO INCREASE NUMBER OF RIVER GUARDIANS**

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the approach of the fishing season and the need for conservation of our salmon rivers, what action is the minister taking this year to increase the number of guardians to conserve our salmon stocks, in line with the need across the country?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, our regulations with respect to salmon, as announced last year, will be reiterated this year in almost precisely the same form.

**Mr. Marshall:** Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question about conservation and the need for extra river guardians this year. What are his intentions in this respect? Last year he had difficulty getting enough funds to provide the required number of guardians.

**Mr. Davis:** Mr. Speaker, we can always do with more river guardians on the east coast.

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**HEALTH****REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON PREPACKAGING OF CERTAIN PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO CUT COST**

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare may I direct my question to the informative Acting Prime Minister. In view of the leaking to the *Montreal Gazette* yesterday of a confidential government report on the possibility of substantial cuts in the price of drugs by prepackaging of the most commonly used prescription drugs, can the Acting Prime Minister say whether or not