

Inquiries of the Ministry

the minister in his forthcoming budget take steps to have the income tax exemption for these very worthy people raised from \$300 to \$600?

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me the hon. member's question has reference to the budget itself. In this way, the question is not in order at this time.

ENERGY

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON INTEGRATED POLICY

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the United States task force report and the recent statement by the President of the United States. Can the minister inform the House whether there are now continuing, active negotiations between the governments of the two countries with a view to establishing a continental integrated energy policy for the two countries?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone has spoken of an integrated continental policy. The President in his message last Friday indicated he thought there should be broad negotiation on a variety of energy questions. The specific discussion concerning the long-term arrangements which can be made have not yet commenced as the President's speech was only made on Friday. But we have been having continuous discussions with our American counterparts with regard to the short term question of the quantum of oil exports from Canada into the U.S. oil markets.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the minister whether the U.S. participants in these negotiations have placed before their Canadian counterparts, and whether the U.S. Secretary of the Interior has placed before the minister, as a condition for further negotiations on the question of the import of Canadian oil to the United States, that discussions with regard to some kind of policy respecting other forms of energy should take place as well?

Mr. Greene: No, Mr. Speaker. Neither my counterpart in the U.S., the secretary of the interior or any other responsible person in the United States administration has, to my knowledge, put any conditions to either continuing or expanded export of Canadian oil, nor any conditions as to the fullest discus-

[Mr. Howe.]

sions on energy matters between our two countries. I do not believe there are any conditions. It is a matter of attempting to achieve agreement in the interest of Canada which will be to the mutual advantage of both countries.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Barney Danson (York North): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to accept the rather intriguing suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition, which I believe was made in Montreal this weekend, to abandon the inflation fight by diverting the budgeted surplus to inflationary consumer spending.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): That is your nonsense.

Mr. Baldwin: Eleven o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I doubt whether this is the kind of question which should be allowed at this time.

An hon. Member: It is highly argumentative.

GRAIN

PRESENT STATUS OF INTERNATIONAL GRAINS ARRANGEMENT

Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio who reports to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. In light of the minister's recent trip to Washington D.C. and his discussions with the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Clifford Hardin, can the minister indicate whether in his talks with Mr. Hardin the present status of the International Grains Agreement came under review, and, if so, what is the present situation regarding this international commodity agreement?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): In our conversations we talked about a good number of things, including the present and future situation with regard to the pricing of grain. The present status, of course, is that prices generally are below the minimums established in the agreement. Furthermore, we are approaching the period when discussions must begin about the continuation period after the end of the current agreement.

Mr. Southam: Can the minister indicate whether our U.S. counterparts in this international commodity agreement are approaching