

would like to ask the minister if at the conference which is taking place this week he will discuss with the ministers from the provinces the question of a floor price for oil as has been proposed by various countries in the International Energy Association.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it may well arise, although it is not specifically the purpose for which we are meeting. It has been discussed in general terms with the provincial officials at the time federal officials briefed them on the I.E.A. discussions.

Mr. Gillies: Has the government put forth any specific proposal as to what the floor price ought to be?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): No, sir.

* * *

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

ADVERTISING CONTRACT AWARDED PRICE, RUBIN AND PARTNERS—AMOUNT OF PAYMENT RECEIVED BY FIRM—INQUIRY AS TO TREASURY BOARD APPROVAL

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. On December 20 at page 2438 of *Hansard* I asked the minister certain questions with respect to a \$250,000 advertising contract awarded to Price, Rubin and Partners. The minister stated on that day that the advertising agency was paid 17 per cent by the media, in this case ethnic newspapers. Since giving his answer on that date has the minister looked into this matter more closely, and if so can he confirm that this company, Price, Rubin and Partners, received payment limited to 17 per cent of the \$250,000 advertising contract?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I advise the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton that when I said 17 per cent I was not specifically referring to this particular company. It was my understanding that advertising contracts—government placements with advertising agencies—meet the long term understanding with the franchise advertising agencies. The media pay the commission, if you like, and this is along the line of professional services. This is the understanding between all advertising agencies and the media. I can check that figure of 17 per cent which applies generally, and whatever it is, I am sure it applies to Price, Rubin and Partners.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I thank the minister, and I look forward to an answer to that question. I wonder if the minister could at the same time inform himself, and perhaps advise the House whether there was Treasury Board approval for this contract in the terms and conditions on which it was let.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I believe the hon. member will recall that when he asked the question, the President of the Treasury Board did answer.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): No, he did not. You can check it, John.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): I will check it.

Oral Questions

PUBLIC SERVICE

STRIKE OF GENERAL LABOUR AND TRADES GROUP—REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF WAGES TO THOSE ADVISED TO RESPECT PICKET LINE TO AVOID VIOLENCE

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting President of the Treasury Board and or for the Minister of National Defence. It arises from the recent bluecollar strike. Would the government reconsider its decision not to pay certain non-striking bluecollar employees of the same union at Willow Park, Halifax, where the armed forces supply base is located, because they were advised by their superiors not to challenge picket lines and so avoid violence? Some lost up to four days pay though they were willing to work.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Acting President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to look into that representation on behalf of the President of the Treasury Board.

* * *

● (1450)

FINANCE

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO RESTRICTION ON SALE OF CANADIAN BONDS IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As the United States bond market has suffered heavily in recent days, making it necessary for several Canadian municipalities to postpone issues, did the minister receive any indication from Mr. Simon during his recent visit that Canadian borrowings would be curtailed and restricted on the U.S. market in the coming year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): No, sir.

GOVERNMENT POSITION ON INVESTMENT OF PETRO-DOLLARS IN CANADA

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Is the minister encouraging or discouraging the investment of petro-dollars in debt securities in Canada, particularly in household or real estate mortgages.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if the money comes, the money comes.

* * *

GRAIN

RESPONSIBILITY FOR USE OF LARGE VESSEL FOR SHIPPING GRAIN TO BANGLADESH

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and arises because of his presence at the Rome food conference. As it takes about one month to load grain for Bangladesh on the cargo carrier *Amoco Cairo*, one of the largest vessels ever to enter the port of Vancouver, because it is necessary to tow the