

*Oral Questions*

other parts of the country. In this regard, does the minister know that the Ontario company, Maple Lodge, has flooded the Quebec poultry market with part of the quota allotted to Ontario, so much so that it could lead to the withdrawal of Quebec from the Canadian Chicken Marketing Agency? In addition, could the minister take steps to protect Quebec producers who are on the brink of bankruptcy, which will result in financial difficulties for Quebec slaughterhouses?

[English]

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some of these comments have been made and, indeed, some of these charges. I am quite certain that the national board, which is made up of provincial counterparts, will be able to resolve this difficulty.

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**THE BUDGET****INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RESULTING FROM ALMOST NO ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Finance. Last night he indicated to the nation that his government will be satisfied with almost no growth in the economy next year. Consequently, there will be a big increase in unemployment in Canada. Will the Minister of Finance agree to follow what was suggested on April 18, 1978, by the hon. member for St. John's West when he said:

Any government that is not led by a man obsessed with unemployment in Canada today should resign and get out and let people take over who are obsessed with unemployment.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it is because I am obsessed with unemployment that we are going to do everything we can to see that these projections do not come true. We are honest with the Canadian public. We are giving the Canadian public what our professional economists think is likely to happen next year. We are going to do everything we can to show that the professional economists are wrong in unemployment as well as in other directions.

I am not going to pretend that inflation is going to be 6.5 per cent, when it is going to be 9.2 per cent, or anything like that, as was done last year. Nor are we satisfied with no growth in the economy. We are expecting real growth of at least one per cent. If our efforts are right, we will have in excess of that despite the impediments that we are carrying on our backs from the past. A lot depends on what happens in the United States of America.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

[Translation]

**INQUIRY WHETHER ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY TAX WILL BE LEVIED ONLY AFTER AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES**

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the commendable efforts of the Minister of Finance last night in the use of the language of Molière, may I be allowed to ask him a question in French today? We are asked to approve this budget which contains a forecasted revenue from 1980 to 1984 of some \$13 billion from the self-sufficiency in energy tax. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, nowhere is there any indication of how that tax will be levied, or what type of agreements will have to be reached with the provinces. At this time, there are no agreements.

So my question to the Minister of Finance is this: first, the budget indicates that additional increases in price in July 1980 will not become effective until such time as the new tax applies. Can the minister say whether he intends to apply this tax only after agreements have been reached with the producing provinces, or does he intend to apply it even if there are no agreements with the provinces? Will that tax be levied on corporate income, gross income, or profits, and does the minister intend to levy a 50 per cent tax, or less, on the surplus income of the companies? Finally, does the minister agree that by 1990 that tax will bring us to the point where we now stand, that is, the one explained by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources last Friday in the standing committee, where we will be importing 250,000 barrels of oil—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

[English]

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, to answer the hon. member's question, I would have to read over the budget speech of last night and it would take me an hour and five minutes. The oil and gas price increases are going to be as set out in the budget. There will be an energy tax which will give us the revenues as set out in the budget. Whether that is to be a revenue tax or a profits tax has not yet finally been decided.

There will be such a tax. Without a tax there will be no such increases. We are going to take the amount of revenue that is shown in the budget and use that to help people all across Canada and help prepare Canada for self-sufficiency in energy. It was all laid out in the budget last night.

**EXCISE TAX ON FARM FUELS—DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON PRODUCERS**

**Mr. Robert Daudlin (Essex-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Given that the forecasts of the officials of the Department of Agriculture are for a drop in farm incomes over the next year of some 12 per cent, and that all producers' estimates find this optimistic in the extreme, given that those projections were made in advance of notice of the over 100 per cent increase in taxes on fuels to the farmer for land preparation, cultivation and harvesting of food, and