

is ratified, it will be announced in the House first. There will be 46 new routes, some of which will be between Calgary and Edmonton and the south of the United States.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member can ask his supplementary, but once again, I will ask for the co-operation of hon. members so that we may try to recognize as many members as possible before the end of the question period.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Transport whether he can give the House the assurance that within 40 minutes his memory will be clearer and that he will be able to recollect the particulars, since he was present at a press conference—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

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FINANCE

SUGGESTED USE OF BUDGET SURPLUS FOR ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the increased unemployment rate and continuing inflation and in view of the fact there is a \$200 million surplus in the budget, would the minister consider putting some of this money into the AHOP which subsidizes housing for people in the lower and middle income groups?

Mr. Baldwin: Talk gently, John.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I would assure myself that my colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, has enough money to meet the housing problems of the country.

Mr. Nystrom: Can the Minister of Finance confirm a report that he turned down a request by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs that he do just that or amend the Bank Act—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question in those terms is out of order.

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ENERGY

CRUDE PETROLEUM—INQUIRY AS TO MEETING WITH ALBERTA MINISTERS—DISCUSSION OF CONSUMERS' SUBSIDY

Mr. Eldon M. Wooliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources if he is meeting any ministers of the government of Alberta this week and if one of the matters that will be discussed is the question of the province of Alberta

Oral Questions

subsidizing the consumers in reference to crude petroleum as western wheat farmers have been asked to subsidize consumers in reference to bread in the whole of Canada?

● (1450)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am meeting with the Alberta ministers. The hon. member's formulation will be an interesting one to put to them.

[Translation]

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—EFFECTS ON CONSTRUCTION OF SUPERTANKER PORT ON ST. LAWRENCE—DISCUSSION BETWEEN OTTAWA AND QUEBEC

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the hon. Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view on the one hand of the federal government announcement regarding the construction of a pipeline and, on the other, of the Quebec government statement concerning the development of a deep water port for supertankers in the lower St. Lawrence region, is the minister in a position to inform us as to whether there were consultations or discussions with the Quebec government prior to his announcement? If not, does he expect any now and if so, when?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I discussed the matter with Quebec officials in July and I am supposed to meet my Quebec counterpart this week.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

SUGGESTED INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Peel South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the Prime Minister's statement of September 4 and that little reference to the working poor, is the Minister of Labour prepared to introduce legislation to increase the minimum wage?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, it is possible to raise the level of the minimum wage without coming directly to parliament, under the legislation. I would indicate to the hon. member that this is under consideration now.

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FISHERIES

DAMAGE TO FISHERMEN'S GEAR BY GREEK FREIGHTER APPROACHING VANCOUVER—ASSISTANCE BY DEPARTMENT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. Is his department prepared to assist fishermen in recovering