

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF WAGE AND PRICE CONTROLS—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF STUDIES**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my questions were intended for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who is supposed to be here today, but I am sure the Minister of Finance will be able to answer them in any event since they come within his general area of concern. Is the government directly, or through the Prices and Incomes Commission, reinstating any efforts to achieve a program of voluntary wage and price restraints or have such efforts been abandoned?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would have to refer this question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, when we recently met with the Canadian Labour Congress I indicated that in future as the economy moves upward, and it is starting to move upward now, we would have to worry about the problem of inflation arising again and the economy getting overheated, and I invited members of the CLC to submit any ideas they might have with respect to co-operation between labour, government and management.

Mr. Stanfield: Is the government preparing a plan involving wage and price controls, either selectively or generally, to be introduced in the event of inflation continuing at an unacceptable rate?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the government is studying and has been studying for quite some time the matter of voluntary or compulsory controls in case they might have to be used at some time in the future. No conclusions have been reached up to this time.

Mr. Stanfield: The minister has said that the government is conducting studies. Would he be prepared to table any such studies conducted by his department or to request that any study conducted by the Prices and Incomes Commission in the area of compulsory wage and price controls be tabled?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, I would have to consider the matter.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the oft-stated responsibility of the provinces in this matter I should like to know whether there are continuing discussions with the provinces of proposals with regard to wage and price controls and, in view of the importance of such discussions, whether the minister will make a statement on them or perhaps release any studies as requested by the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr. Benson: Mr. Speaker, we have not yet reached the point where I think it would be useful to have discus-

[Mr. Woolliams.]

sions with the provinces directly, although the general problem of future inflation and the efforts that must be made by all governments in order to make sure that there are no serious ups and downs in the economy are discussed with the provinces every time I meet with them.

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OIL**PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE—DISCUSSIONS WITH COMPANY PRESIDENTS—OWNERSHIP—DETERMINATION OF RATES**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development arising out of the press statement that the minister is planning to meet the presidents of the seven companies involved in the Alyeska project to discuss an alternative Canadian route. Is the minister going to meet this group and is the Canadian government actively promoting the construction of a pipeline from Alaska through the Canadian Arctic and Canadian mid-west to the United States?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, next week my colleague the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and I will meet here in Ottawa the people most directly involved in Prudhoe Bay oil reserves for preliminary discussion of the alternative solution for routing Alaska oil through the Mackenzie valley. The government therefore does not intend to make concrete proposals.

[English]

Mr. Douglas: In view of the minister's statement recently that certain guidelines have been laid down and in view of the discussions which are about to take place I should like to ask either of the ministers concerned whether, if such a pipeline is constructed, it will be entirely under American ownership or will there be some Canadian participation? Will there be participation by the Canadian government in the ownership of such a pipeline from Alaska to the United States through Canada?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: There has been as yet no definite decision, Mr. Speaker, but if the hon. member reads the guidelines carefully, he will see that we intend to protect Canadian interests and ensure that Canadians will have the opportunity to participate, if they want to do so.

[English]

Mr. Douglas: I have read the guidelines, and the minister said the other day that one of the guidelines was that such a pipeline would be a common carrier. I should like to ask either of the ministers, who will determine the rates for such a common carrier and, particularly, who will determine the rates for Canadian input or output in such a line? Would this be under Canadian jurisdiction and, if so, what minister or agency would be responsible?