

Oral Questions

Review Act, can the minister now say exactly when the government will proclaim in force Part II of that act dealing with new foreign investments?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I expect to be discussing this matter with my colleagues in the very near future.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS**STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—SUGGESTED SETTLEMENT OF GRIEVANCES**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Labour.

In view of the fact that the compulsory return to work was not welcomed by longshoremen and that several basic areas of conflict have yet to be settled to the satisfaction of the parties concerned, has the hon. minister considered the possibility of settling the matter in a satisfactory way, so as to avoid work stoppages for any minor reason?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have been watching the situation closely. I think one of the principal elements still remaining, and a subject of controversy, is the question of overtime. My advice is that the employer organization, the MEA, and the union are endeavouring to work this matter out, but in the meantime the men have returned to work and are working the normal hours.

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TRANSPORT**TRANSFERENCE OF FISHING WHARVES TO FISHERIES MINISTRY—REASON FISHERMEN CHARGED WHARFAGE FEES**

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Several months prior to the election of 1974 the then minister of fisheries advised fishermen that there would be a transfer of fishing wharves from the Department of Transport to the authority of the minister of fisheries, that policy in respect to wharfage would be reconsidered and the new policy enunciated. Would the Minister of Transport advise the House if these wharves have indeed been transferred to the Minister of State (Fisheries), and if so, why are wharfage fees still being assessed and fishermen being charged in court for non-payment of these while the new policy is pending?

● (1440)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, actually they have been transferred to the Department of Fisheries. Indeed, after we talked together yesterday, I sent that note to the department. I hope to get the answer on the fees they have to pay, and for which I have no explanation at all.

[Mr. Gray.]

Mr. McCain: Will the minister instruct his staff to resist from attempts to collect wharfage fees until such time as the policy is clear and equitable for all rather than pointed at a few small fishermen?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, as soon as I have the answer, I will see what I can do about it.

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ENERGY**CONSERVATION PROGRAM—DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIONS ON TRANSPORTATION AND TAX POLICIES AIMED AT SAVING FUEL—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAM**

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On February 6 the minister announced the adoption of a conservation program for the use of energy in Canada. Can he tell us today whether he has had consultations with the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance about a comprehensive transportation policy and tax policy geared at saving fuel?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there have been interdepartmental consultations involving those two as well as other departments.

Mr. Gillies: Can the minister advise when he will be making a report to the House on the effectiveness of this program?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I will be glad to consider that, Mr. Speaker.

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HOUSING**NATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM—REASON FOR REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF STARTS—ABILITY OF NATIVE PEOPLE TO AFFORD MORTGAGE INTEREST RATE**

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. According to a recent press report, a new native housing program is being proposed, one which would build some 20,000 units over the next five years. On March 10, in committee, one of the minister's officials, Mr. Teron, said of the native housing program, "We are still committed to the 50,000 units for five years." Why the drastic reduction in the number of starts planned when we are facing such a serious housing shortage?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no reduction in planned starts. I believe Mr. Teron was referring to those which come under Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for Métis and non-status Indians whereas I believe the other reference made related to those under my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, for natives on reserves and status Indians off reserves.