

Oral Questions

supplied to Canada? If this is so, is there to be a two-price system in respect of these kinds of industries?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if, as and when the program performs successfully the mineral industry will hopefully be a part of it. The hon. gentleman has put his finger on one of the difficulties involving the export price of primary products, particularly mineral resources. I would be rather reluctant to contemplate a two-price system for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that this might be open to retaliation from some of our trading partners. That is one of the difficult questions that has occurred in these discussions.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

ADVERTISING IN "LE JOUR"—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN POLICY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Since the petroleum situation is now of the greatest interest, and since protests are rising from every part of the country against the minister's decision not to use the newspaper *Le Jour* to inform the readers of his department's policy, may I ask him whether he intends to review his policy on the matter with a view to doing justice to this paper's readers, particularly on the petroleum matter?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): The decision has not changed, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

HEALTH

STUDY CONCERNING ARSENIC POISONING IN
YELLOWKNIFE—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to indicate whether the health study conducted in Yellowknife concerning arsenic pollution has now been completed, and does he have a report to present to parliament in that regard?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I will inquire, Mr. Speaker, and if this study is ready, I will be pleased to publish it or provide the hon. member with a copy.

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

POWERS OF BOARDS PROPOSED FOR MONITORING
CONSENSUS PROGRAM TO ENFORCE GUIDELINES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, with your patience I should like to direct two questions, the first to the Minister of Finance and the second to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Having regard to the terms of reference of the board or boards which will be set up under the consensus talks, will the Minister of Finance advise whether the government is now going beyond the areas of monitoring and interpretation of the principles raised in his statement and is now prepared to consider terms of reference that might include the authority to enforce key aspects of whatever guidelines are established?

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

ALLEGED CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR COMPULSORY INCOME
AND PRICE CONTROLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, my second question is addressed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and is similar to one asked of the Prime Minister last Thursday regarding the continual updating of a contingency plan for compulsory income and price controls. That question was not answered by the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance. It certainly has been reported that there is a plan in existence that is continually being updated. I refer to a contingency plan for compulsory income and price controls. Can the minister confirm that report?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe it already has been said that the government has studied these possibilities in order to consider them if necessary. The fact that we have studied the matter and checked the possibility of using this solution does not mean necessarily that we agree with this doctrine. However, it is clear that the government has studied what it would imply and neglected no details in developing a plan that could be used if necessary.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: Notwithstanding that long preamble which gave me no information whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, will the minister answer the question I really want him to answer, and that is whether this plan in continually being updated?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the government is seriously studying the changing situation in Canada, must become familiar with all new situations, and it is clear that the civil servants of my department check each day very seriously the change in the situation.