

Minister of Finance that in one chapter of this report it is stated:

The analysis in this chapter suggests that energy strategy should give great weight to the need to encourage exploration for oil and gas . . .

I should like to ask whether the minister knew of the intention and recommendations of the Economic Council of Canada when he prepared his budget which included a tax on royalties as dealt with by the Prime Minister during his hour and a half speech yesterday?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I dealt with that in specific terms in reply to the hon. gentleman yesterday. I can say to him that I had no advance consultation with the Economic Council of Canada in respect of the report. I might add that the Economic Council, by reason of its terms of reference in the statute setting it up, deals with medium and long-term economic prospects for Canada. Of course, members of the House and myself deal in the short-term as it affects these prospects.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, might I ask one further supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: With all due respect to the hon. member, I think we have now gone beyond even representations on the question asked by the hon. member for Calgary South. In this instance not only is the same question being asked, but the hon. member is asking the same question he asked yesterday, and I think we ought to move on.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

MEAT AND GRAIN INSPECTORS—SUGGESTION INSPECTORS REMAIN AT WORK DURING NEGOTIATIONS—APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, in view of the unhealthy situation existing in the red meat industry which jeopardizes the assurance of supply of red meat to the consumer, due to the meat inspectors and graders striking and working to rule as a result of the affiliation of the meat inspectors with the grain inspectors, would the President of the Treasury Board accept as his personal responsibility the resolving of this disagreement, and while negotiations are taking place will he request all inspectors to remain on the job?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that meat inspectors and other officers who deal with primary commodities are not on strike. For the time being, only grain inspectors are. Yesterday, some officers left work, but I am advised that they are back on the job today. Anyway, non-designated employees among the 2,300 primary commodities inspectors have the right to strike, since it is a right which was given to them under a parliamentary legislation.

[English]

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the graders were out on strike yesterday and the inspectors are working to rule, which jeopardizes production in the

Oral Questions

red meat industry, will the President of the Treasury Board agree that if Mr. Finkelman does not resolve this problem within a few days he will appoint a new mediator?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I was aware that the hon. member was going to ask this question, and a mediator was appointed this morning.

[English]

STRIKE OF GRAIN INSPECTORS—PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT IN VIEW OF SIZE OF SETTLEMENT FOR GRAIN HANDLERS

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we now have a double standard in labour negotiations that has been perpetuated by this government, does the President of the Treasury Board not feel that until a satisfactory explanation is made in respect of the two offers, and I refer to the grain handlers, or until that discrepancy is resolved, the prospects of reaching a resolution to this strike will be severely inhibited?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, there are well known procedures to solve labour conflicts in Canada. As regards those inspectors, as I have said earlier, a conciliation board has presented a report. The majority report has not been accepted by the workers, but I must say that the minority report, as proposed by the union representative, did not even claim as much as the grain handlers have received.

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[English]

ENERGY

REQUEST FOR CANCELLATION OF SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO ARGENTINE—SUGGESTION NO FURTHER SALES BE MADE IN VIEW OF LACK OF SAFEGUARDS

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my question to the Prime Minister. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has indicated that the government of Canada is seeking safeguards from the government of Argentina prior to the disbursement of the Cabinet-approved ECD loan of more than \$129 million for the construction of a Candu reactor in Argentina. In light of the highly volatile political situation in that country and the very obvious instability of the present Argentine government, will the Prime Minister inform the House whether he is going to cancel the sale of the Candu to Argentina?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would say to the House that this matter is under consideration at the present time, and I will take the question of the hon. member by way of representation.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, while the Prime Minister is doing that would he also consider that, in view of the fact there can be no safeguards when providing other countries with this nuclear potential, this kind of sale