

Oral Questions

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): As I indicated to the House last week, the government is in the process of taking the necessary steps, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Is the minister now in a position to state definitely whether it is proposed by order in council to raise the ceiling on permissible income under the War Veterans Allowance Act or whether there will be some other adjustment in the amount being paid to war veterans allowance recipients?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer not to announce government policy until it is government policy.

Some hon. Members: Oh, Oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Will the minister make an announcement in time so that any improvements for the war veterans can be effective in October, as they will be for the other groups to which I have already referred?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): I hope to be able to make an announcement in sufficient time.

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FOOD PRICES

USE OF RESEARCHERS BY REVIEW BOARD—STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN ALLEGING NO GOUGING

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs may I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. It is reported that the Food Prices Review Board is sending out some 80 researchers today to gather the facts on rising food prices. Would the Prime Minister tell the House on what evidence or research the chairman of the Food Prices Review Board has been saying over the last month or so that there has not been any price gouging in food?

Right Hon P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will have to inquire, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member on a supplementary question, but the Chair has considerable doubt about the procedural acceptability of the question. The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary, following which the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain.

Mr. Darling: My question is to the right hon. Prime Minister. As a member of the Special Committee on Food Prices I listened for four hours last Thursday and—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly resume his seat. The hon. member should not forget that when I seek the floor the hon. member should give me an opportunity to indicate why I have risen. The hon. member was recognized for the purpose of asking a supplementary question. Perhaps he should do so now.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

Mr. Darling: Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether any thorough or direct research on food prices has been done in the last several months by the board or by the department and, if so, when can we expect this research to be made public?

● (1440)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the department is researching into this kind of matter on a constant basis. So far as the board is concerned, I will have to inquire.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain has been seeking the floor for some time to ask a supplementary. He will be recognized at this time.

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ENERGY

PROPOSED EXTENSION OF OIL PIPELINE TO MONTREAL—DISCUSSION WITH ALBERTA

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the question on the Montreal pipeline I asked last Tuesday. It is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that with respect to his answer of last Tuesday he has been caught out so far as the province of Quebec is concerned, has he had any discussion with the province of Alberta and approval by that province to make this policy work?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am anticipating a meeting with the Alberta representatives this week. We have had discussions in general terms following the energy analysis and I have spoken to my counterpart on the telephone about it. We will be discussing it further this coming week.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister suggested to the provincial energy ministers that, before any more fluffs are made by these rapid announcements of the Prime Minister without being properly prepared by the minister, he would like to meet with them to try to get a basis for a national oil and gas policy established before any more goofs like this are made?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, without accepting the description of the hon. gentleman, I would say there has been very continuous consultation, particularly with Alberta, on these questions. I will look forward to seeing them again this week. I am not sure whether a general conference would be the best way to arrive at a co-ordinated policy.