

ENERGY**OIL—SUGGESTION EXTRA REVENUE BE PLACED IN FUND TO BE USED ONLY FOR EXPLORATION**

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I will direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Is it correct that the increase in oil and gas prices recently announced by the federal government will result in windfall revenues of some \$1 billion going to oil companies, largely foreign owned, without any obligation on their part to use any of this money for exploration for and development of oil and gas resources? If this is so, as appears to be the case, will the government take immediate steps to protect the interests of Canadian consumers, on whom the burden of these higher prices will fall, by ensuring through legislation that the oil companies will get this additional revenue only if, as and when they carry out exploration and development work additional to what they have been doing?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to confirm the alleged facts pointed out by the hon. member. His question is in the nature of a representation which will be considered.

* * *

SOCIAL SERVICES**POSSIBILITY PROPOSED LEGISLATION INFRINGES PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the charge by Mr. Lazure that the federal government uses cost-sharing programs to enter into areas that the constitution closes to it and is justifying expansion of the civil service by going into fields not part of its jurisdiction, has the minister considered whether his proposed social insurance services act is an infringement upon provincial jurisdiction?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Ritchie: As Mr. Timbrell has said that the conference was so empty it could have been preceded by a one-page memo rather than a two-day conference, will the minister advise whether anything useful was accomplished at the conference?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

ACCEPTANCE BY PROVINCES OTHER THAN QUEBEC OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, now that the province of Quebec has registered its very adamant objection to the introduction of new social services legislation, can the minister advise whether in fact all of the other provinces accept the legislation as introduced? If not, is it his intention to in any event push ahead, notwithstanding the fact that he does not have full support?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the provinces and the federal government together studied six different projects before choosing the one that was tabled in the House. No province, other than Quebec, has indicated any disagreement with the one tabled in the House which corresponds to the sixth version distributed for consideration to the provinces. I must point out, in addition, that at no time prior to the conference last week, either during discussions held in recent years or on several occasions since November 15 last, did the Quebec government indicate, through its officials or otherwise, that it did not agree with the proposed legislation.

[English]

SUGGESTED DELAY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION PENDING CONSULTATION WITH QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): The province of Ontario is a big province, as is the province of Quebec. In light of the fact that we want equality of treatment and if Quebec insists on not giving its consent to this very important piece of legislation, will the minister advise whether he is prepared to withhold second reading of this bill until he has had further consultation with the provinces, in particular the province of Quebec, in order to see whether we can find some common ground in order to proceed?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, not only are the provinces of Ontario and Quebec important, but we do have ten provinces in this country. We had intensive consultations with all provinces and I intend to resume the consultations which took place in the past, in the same spirit, with all provinces. I do not think federal-provincial relations can lead to a situation where the provinces of Quebec and Ontario would have a sort of right of veto over all projects which could include federal-provincial cooperation. I can assure my hon. colleague that I will do my best to get continuous cooperation from those provinces which are of particular importance due to their population. I can also tell the hon. member that the Quebec Minister of Social Affairs said that he would send me additional comments in the near future. I am looking forward to receiving them. I do not intend to proceed to second reading of this bill until I receive the comments of my colleague from Quebec.

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**PLACEMENT BY MEMBER OF OFFICE TRAILER ON DOWNSVIEW AIR BASE**

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence. As a