

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think a valid summary of the last two days' discussions would be that while there are certain details of the anti-inflation program with which the provincial governments disagreed, and while there were details which they would like us to change and changes which we are prepared to consider, in general I think it is a fair statement of their position that all governments were prepared to support our program and to co-operate.

There will be certain questions, one of which is the question of the determination of professional income, which was recognized as a difficulty and upon which there will have to be additional work done. It was decided by all the provinces that they would assume exclusive responsibility for the control of rents, although there will be an attempt to develop national criteria, so there will not be any invidious comparison from one region to another. With respect to dealing with the public sector, the government of Quebec made it clear that it would be creating its own regime to deal with the public sector within Quebec. The conclusion I draw from the remarks of Mr. McKeough in regard to Ontario, on the other hand, is that Ontario will be opting into the federal tribunal with regard to the public sector.

I think it is fair to say that most of the other provinces at this moment have not given final indication whether all or part of the public sector would be put under federal jurisdiction. I cannot be clear on their intentions at this point.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—INTENTION OF PROVINCES TO FOLLOW FEDERAL GUIDELINES IF THEY SET UP THEIR OWN ADMINISTRATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question. With respect to those provinces that have already, or indicate that at some point in the future they intend, to set up their own administration, has there been any commitment from them that they may be considering this line of procedure? Has there been any commitment that they will follow and adopt the guidelines announced by the federal government in administering the program itself?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the most accurate description would be that they all recognize that failure to adopt essentially national standards could result, in appropriate cases, in employee competition between one province and another. In that sense there was a general recognition of the wisdom of attempting to accord decisions on the basis of national criteria rather than purely locally evolved ones. There was recognition of the fact that as time goes on, with two tribunals dealing with the same subject matter but with differences in individual personality and local facts, there could be a divergence. I think it was generally accepted, however, that every effort should be made to try to avoid that.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—POSITION OF PROVINCES ON CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LEGISLATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Minister of Finance indicate whether the provinces accept the constitutional position of the government following these discussions? I ask this question particularly in view of the statement attributed to the Minister of Labour of the province of Quebec reported in *Le Devoir* as follows:

[Translation]

And I quote *Le Devoir*:

He said that the bill "appears to disregard completely the legal implications of labour legislation".

On Thursday, concerning labour legislation, he also said:

The bill compels Quebec to review its entire legislation governing collective bargaining, unique in Canada, which covers about 250,000 workers in the province.

[English]

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, in general, the provinces indicated that there was no contest on their part with respect to the jurisdiction of the government of Canada to put this program forward, and indeed to put forward the bill that is now before parliament. The report the hon. gentleman has referred to does reflect a concern that was expressed, not so much from the constitutional standpoint, but from the legal and practical standpoint of integrating the collective bargaining system which of course will deal with many other things than the compensation level, but which will be importantly affected by compensation levels by adjusting the collective bargaining system to the over-all compensation control program. We recognize that inevitably the judgments of the Anti-Inflation Board, for example in the private sector, are going to have an impact on negotiations within the province of Quebec. We recognize that there will have to be close consultation in this regard. Whether any formal changes in either the Quebec or Federal law, will be required is not clear. It seems to me at this point that the over-all federal administration can effectively be adjusted to the collective bargaining system, whether we are talking about that under the federal jurisdiction or each province.

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES TO PLACE MARKETING BOARDS UNDER GUIDELINES

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that most marketing boards are under provincial jurisdiction, and in view of the evidence that was presented by the Food Prices Review Board that at least in one area of commodity marketing, the area of chicken broilers, there is evidence of a consumer rip-off, may I ask if the minister has sought or intends to seek agreement from the provinces to place all marketing boards in Canada under the guidelines laid down by the white paper. In conclusion may I ask if he intends to place some restraint on the language of the Minister of Agriculture who described the principal people on the Anti-inflation Board as a bunch of nuts.

• (1130)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the hon. gentleman's final comment, I hope he understands that I should try to confine