

Oral Questions

The Economic Council of Canada is charged with an over-view for the medium and long term of the economy of Canada. I received the report as did every other member of this House.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to have to press this but I think the minister should come clean with us. This report has been out since July at least, so it has been lying on somebody's desk. Surely, he knew the intention, particularly of those important recommendations. Where was the report? Did the minister know its intention? If he did not follow it, whose recommendations did he follow in preparing the budget in question?

● (1440)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I consulted widely, even including some of the hon. member's friends.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON FEDERAL
TAXATION OF PROVINCIAL CROWN COMPANIES DEVELOPING
RESOURCES—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Last night in the House the Minister of Justice indicated that he strongly favoured federal taxation of Crown corporations if they are used by provinces to develop their resources. Was the Minister of Justice speaking simply as an individual at that time or was he stating government policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is not stating what the minister said. I read his speech just a few minutes ago. He did not say he strongly favoured that. I don't know why the leader of the New Democratic Party places those words in the minister's mouth. He said it was possible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to learn that the Prime Minister is paying attention to debates in the House. It is very reassuring. Whether the minister strongly favoured it or not is a matter of judgment. If you read his text and argument, I think my interpretation is an understatement. The Prime Minister still has not answered my question. Is this government policy or is it not?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice said it was possible to do that. That is all he stated and I support him in that.

Mr. Broadbent: If the government embarks on such a policy, will the Prime Minister inform the House whether one result would be extending the idea to taxing provincial departmental activities in the resource sector if they took over certain developments independent of using a Crown corporation. Is the federal government considering that as well?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you realize the question is hypothetical.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I have one final supplementary.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: It is obvious that not only the Prime Minister is a sensitive individual. A lot of his backbenchers are the same.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: If I could just have a little quiet over there. If it is the intention of the federal government to move in this direction, will the Prime Minister assure the House that when the government finally acts, it will do so after consulting the 10 provinces and not simply impose such a policy on them unilaterally?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the provinces consult us before nationalizing industries, we will return the same courtesy to them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

HOUSING

REQUEST THAT CENTRAL MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION REDUCE INTEREST RATE

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

I believe all hon. members recognize the efforts the Minister of State for Urban Affairs is making now to give a new impetus to the building industry. Here is my question: In order that those efforts be valid and efficient, could the minister advise the House whether he, his department or the government intend to take the necessary steps to require the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to set down their interest rates at 9¾ per cent for 1975?

[English]

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am interested in the suggestion of the hon. member and I appreciate his kind words. I wish I could reciprocate in such a manner to make him as happy as he has made me.

An hon. Member: Go over and kiss him, Barney.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: All I can say is I will continue my efforts along with CMHC to make sure we deliver good housing for Canadians at the lowest cost and at interest rates they can afford to pay.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister advise the House whether negotiations have been initiated with loan companies and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to provide for the amounts