

Oral Questions

that question, but notwithstanding that can the minister advise me whether he is in possession of any information which indicates that we are now in for another record year in terms of benefits paid out? If so, what is his prognosis in this regard?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not judging the amount of benefits paid out in terms of making or breaking records or not making or breaking records. We pay out benefits to people who are entitled to them in relation to the terms and conditions of their unemployment.

Mr. Alexander: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I know the former minister of labour dislikes my asking these questions, and I know that the minister of manpower is presently trying to evade my question, but I would ask him to answer it. Has the minister any idea what the benefit pay out will be in 1974? That is all I am asking and I know he has the answer.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is, not deliberately but inadvertently, misleading the House if he thinks that I have the answer to that right now off the top of my head.

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FINANCE**REASON FOR DIFFERENCE IN TAXATION OF MARINE EQUIPMENT AND AUTOMOBILES**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance regarding the extra tax on certain vehicles at a time when the manufacturing, wholesale and retail sectors of the marine industry are suffering from a severe recession. Would the minister explain to the House why he intends to impose such a discriminatory tax as the 10 per cent surcharge, which could bring the extra tax on an outboard motor boat which sold at \$6,000 up to \$600, whereas a high energy car which can sell for \$10,000 to \$12,000 would only be taxed on an extra 200 or 300 pounds, which means an extra tax of probably no more than \$100?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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AGRICULTURE**HOGS—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN VIEW OF FILLING OF UNITED STATES IMPORT QUOTA**

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the quarterly quota on hog exports to the United States will be filled by the end of this week, will the Minister of Agriculture inform the House what tentative plans he has made that will deal with this very serious situation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we do not foresee any great difficulty in respect

[Mr. Alexander.]

of pork products. Arrangements and plans in respect of what we are going to do regarding pork products have not been finalized at the present time, but we are working on them.

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FINANCE**KNOWLEDGE OF MINISTER OF REPORT OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD WHEN PREPARING BUDGETARY PROPOSALS FOR OIL INDUSTRY**

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, last night in the House the Prime Minister said, and I quote:

We have taken the steps we felt necessary to achieve our objective, consistent with maintaining a healthy industry.

The Prime Minister was referring to oil. I should like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he had the new National Energy Board study on oil supplies before presenting the budget, and whether the studies used by his department in preparing the budget indicated that the exploration level for oil and gas as a result of the budget would increase, stay the same or decrease? I should also like to ask the minister if he will table these studies?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I dealt with that question in some detail in reply to questions put to me yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition. Perhaps the hon. member would refer to those answers, and, if they do not satisfy him, he might put the question to me again tomorrow.

LEVEL OF ROYALTIES AT WHICH GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONSIDER DEDUCTIBILITY

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of his reference twice yesterday in the House to a very high level of royalties eroding the federal tax base, and the statement by the Minister of Finance that the provinces have gone too far, implying that some lower level of provincial royalties might have been acceptable, would the government consider permitting the deductibility of royalties up to some level considered to be reasonable so that Canadians will not be faced with the possibility of freezing in the dark?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that is an interesting question, and if it had been asked by the premier of one of the provinces some months ago we might have come in with a different budget, although I do not know. Obviously, they did not want to act in that direction.

KNOWLEDGE OF MINISTER OF REPORT OF ECONOMIC COUNCIL WHEN PREPARING BUDGET PROPOSALS DEALING WITH ROYALTIES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question supplementary to that of the hon. member for Calgary South and along the lines of a question I asked yesterday. I should point out to the