

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that we have ample time to make the announcement so that cattlemen can plan their marketing in proper fashion.

Mr. Hargrave: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister intend to make the announcement before the end of the first year's support program?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, yes, we do, to give the cattlemen ample time, because we do not want to see a rush of cattle to the market in the last month before August 11. We want proper and orderly marketing and we realize that we will need to make the announcement some time ahead of that date.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S VIEW OF ACCEPTABLE LEVEL

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance which arises from a phrase he used when answering the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville. Unless I am misquoting him, he referred to bringing inflation down to an acceptable level, whatever it may be. Can he tell the House and country what he considers to be an acceptable level of inflation, so that, when trying to reach this elusive consensus, he can define what he is trying to achieve in this regard?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman will have a better idea of that when we bring the blueprint before the House in due course.

INFLATION—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION HOW GOVERNMENT ADOPTING A MODERATING STANCE TO COPE WITH PROBLEM

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Since federal government spending has increased by over 28 per cent, as measured by the estimates of last year and the estimates of this year, and as the money supply is increasing at an annual rate of 33 per cent, can the Prime Minister explain how the government is adopting a moderating stance, to cope with the problem of inflation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, not in answer to a question.

INFLATION—SUGGESTION ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT IS SUBSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. A little while ago there was an election, during which the Prime Minister said that we had made some progress and that the problem of inflation was world-wide. Statements made this week suggest we have made progress, to the extent that we have reduced

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the problem of inflation to three factors, namely, the use of consensus, the energy conference and the result therefore, and what happens in the United States, and there has been little progress there. As the ministers of finance are not even meeting today, although they are supposed to, which takes care of the elusive consensus, and as the energy conference did not produce any concrete results—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I indicated briefly on Monday the desirability of keeping preambles to questions to a minimum, particularly to supplementary questions, to which, if possible, there should be none. In view of that admonition, and as the hon. member has perhaps continued for long enough, could he ask his supplementary.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, what I said was not a preamble to my question. It was part of the body of the question. I was asking about the three factors which the Minister of Finance said this week related to the budget and when the government will finally come to grips with inflation. I dealt with the first two factors, the consensus and the energy conference. As for the U.S. problems, anyone looking at television last night would have seen how unsettled conditions there are. In view of all this, will the Prime Minister be as realistic and factual as he was when he was a writer and finally admit that the whole consensus search is just a charade and a cop-out from leadership on the question of inflation.

INFLATION—SUGGESTED EXISTENCE OF CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR PRICE AND WAGE CONTROLS—POSSIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In a newsletter to his constituents, the Minister of Labour, after saying that the government had found it necessary to establish a prices review board, went on to say, and I quote:

The government also has a contingency plan if for some reason this board fails in its effort to control prices. The contingency plan would involve the establishment of a form of wage and price control, which you have shown your concern for in the last questionnaire which was returned to me.

Some 62 per cent of the minister's constituents agreed with this form of contingency plan. Can the Prime Minister now say if this form of contingency plan is still on the shelf, and what does it take to make this government implement it.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We established earlier this week that unless the question of privilege or point of order raised during the question period is of immediate urgency, it must wait until twelve o'clock.

● (1140)

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member raised that same point several months prior to the last election. On each occasion he has failed to indicate the date when that letter was sent out, which leads to all sorts of misunderstanding and misrepre-