

the detriment of consumers, he should let us know and we will act immediately.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ASK PETRO-CANADA TO MAINTAIN PRICE OF GASOLINE AT REALISTIC LEVEL

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, it was this Government that gave permission to close down the Gulf refinery in Montreal, which reduced competition and created the conditions in which today, the price of the gas sold by Ultramar can go up.

I want to ask the Minister to explain to the House why he is letting Ultramar take this action, since this is the company that authorized the shutdown of Gulf in Montreal.

Since the Government controls Petro-Canada I also want to ask the Minister if he will ask Petro-Canada to maintain the price of its gas, at least to protect consumers and promote competitive pricing.

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in order to encourage more competition, we passed a new Competition Act in June which gives important new powers to the Government. Under those new powers the Government is monitoring the situation. I repeat again that if the Hon. Member or any other Hon. Member has any evidence of collusion or undue influence on the market by any company, Petro-Canada included, please let us know and we will act, and act immediately.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

PORT-CARTIER PRISON—REQUEST OF SOLICITOR GENERAL'S EMPLOYEES' UNION IN QUEBEC—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Yesterday, on behalf of prison guards, the Solicitor General's Employees' Union in Quebec urged the Government to put an immediate end to the Port-Cartier construction project before it is too late.

Here is my question to the Prime Minister: Can he respond to this urgent request and, more to the point, explain why he wants to build a new prison in Port-Cartier when his own correctional service expects there will be 400 too many maximum security cells in Quebec by 1992? It does look like a white elephant!

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, that question has been asked many times in the House and answered many times in the House. I would ask the Hon. Member to read

Hansard once in a while. Sometimes he is unavoidably absent. Perhaps the Hon. Member might familiarize himself with the issue. The decision to build a prison at Port-Cartier was taken for very good and valid reasons, all of which have been substantiated.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members know that it is not the practice in the Chamber to refer to the absence of an Hon. Member at any given time even if, in referring to that absence, the benefit of the doubt is given. I would ask the Hon. Member to make the preamble to his supplementary question short.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister who may be here but who refuses to answer questions from this side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Order.

An Hon. Member: Come on. Play fair, guys.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Tomorrow morning the Justice Committee of the House of Commons will be considering the recommendation of the all-Party steering committee that the Prime Minister appear before that committee and answer questions on Port-Cartier. My question is very straightforward. It is for the Prime Minister and not for one of his Ministers. Will the Prime Minister appear before the Justice Committee as the steering committee has requested and answer the questions, the answers to which Canadians are entitled?

An Hon. Member: The muffler.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am truly amazed—

Mr. Rossi: This is the butler.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

Mr. Mazankowski: I am truly amazed at that question, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member has been around this House for some time. He knows very well that decisions are not made by a steering committee. Decisions are made by the standing committee. This is simply—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Get it under control.

Mr. Mazankowski: —a recommendation by the steering committee. My understanding is that the standing committee will deal with it. At that time if there is a recommendation as