

*Oral Questions*

contained in the *Winnipeg Free Press* last Friday that Imperial Oil is dumping hundreds of thousands of litres of diesel oil in North Dakota at prices below the U.S. wholesale price, and over 50 per cent less than what is being charged in the Winnipeg market? Is this an example of how a private sector firm is serving the proper market in Canada? Will the Minister investigate?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I can assure my colleague that such activities are now subject to review by the Director of Combines Investigations and that, if he knows of any facts which could enlighten us and make the work of the Director easier, I shall be happy to receive them and I shall take prompt action.

• (1430)

[English]

## REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister has not answered my question. I am specifically asking whether or not the Government will investigate the case of Imperial Oil dumping diesel oil across the border. The fall in diesel oil prices has not kept pace with that of gasoline prices, a fall of 2 cents versus one of 9 cents. Is it not time the Government became interested in the downstream pricing policies of our oil wholesalers so that there will not be this type of consumer rip-off?

[Translation]

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, as I have already said, it is up to the Director of Combines Investigations to determine whether there are grounds for investigation or not. To my knowledge, the Director has always completed his reviews very promptly.

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[English]

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

## IMASCO BID FOR GENSTAR—POTENTIAL IMPACT ON TRUST COMPANY DEPOSITORS

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. Does the Minister remember the recent circumstances surrounding Greymac and those concerning Seaway some years ago, where conflict of interest situations resulted in tremendous losses suffered by depositors in both of those trust companies? Does she not see the same potential trouble looming with respect to the takeover of Canada Trust?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I think the allegation of the Hon. Member is a little unfair. We have indicated that we are reviewing this proposal. We have brought in legislation which gives us the power to make a cease and desist order, a power which would have effectively changed the situation with respect to those trust companies. We have moved with our legislative program to deal with the problems which have come up in the past and problems which could come down the road in the future. I will not relate Imasco to something which has gone before in connection with those trust companies.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not recognize that the power with respect to cease and desist is after the fact, and that what is potentially before us is the possibility of internal lending of people's money deposited in Canada Trust in good faith? Why does the Minister allow this potential conflict of interest to be included in this deal?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, we have moved on this legislative package to prevent the type of abuses suggested by the Hon. Member. The problems of the past are just that. We have learned many lessons from them, which is one of the reasons we have moved quickly with legislation.

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[Translation]

## REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

## MATANE PAPER MILL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Mr. Minister, last Friday the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, Mr. Ciaccia, had to hold a press conference to implore you to honour the promise you made to him on January 14, 1985, to fund the Matane paper mill.

Can the Minister tell this House whether he signed today, morning, or whether he intends to sign later today the agreement that would allow the Matane paper mill to proceed?

[English]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in connection with the proposed paper-mill in Matane I am sure that the Hon. Member will want to know that the company in Norway has advised us that it will not be in the position to say yes or no to the deal until sometime in May since it is the object of a takeover bid. The company has asked us to bear this in mind with respect to any negotiations concerning the paper-mill at Matane.