

**Mr. Broadbent:** Obviously they are not going to bring down prices and are setting out to destroy Petro-Canada.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Broadbent:** The last Conservative Prime Minister who laughed about the fate of Petro-Canada lost his job. I warn the Prime Minister that the same thing will happen to him.

#### CORPORATION'S MANDATE

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Considering that the Act was passed—

**Mr. Crosbie:** You're wasting gas, Ed.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Considering that the Act to establish Petro-Canada that was passed by Parliament gives it a broad mandate to explore, refine, and have reasonable prices, will the Minister admit that the new mandate given to Petro-Canada's Chairman completely violates the Act by requesting Petro-Canada to maximize its profits and, therefore, ignore the consumer as well as other Canadian interests?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the mandate is given to Petro-Canada by the Minister responsible for Petro-Canada, which is myself. I represent the Government and hold a share. The mandate says in particular that the Corporation is now being given a new mandate by its shareholder to operate in a commercial private sector fashion with emphasis on profitability and the need to maximize the return on the Government of Canada's investment. This involves billions of dollars of our most valuable frontier resources.

I remind the Hon. Member that this was the first Government to collect a dividend from Petro-Canada. We collected \$30 million from Petro-Canada in the last Budget. One cannot ask a company to operate as if it is a private sector company, collect dividends from it which are returned to the Government of Canada, and then ask it to indulge in artificial pricing.

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#### ENERGY

##### PRICE OF GASOLINE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The people of northern Ontario are outraged because the prices for gasoline remain at an all-time high at the same time that world oil prices are falling very dramatically. Will the Minister explain to the motorists of northern Ontario why they can save \$10 in filling up their tanks simply by driving across the bridge from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to The Soo, Michigan? Why are northern Ontario's neighbours in Minnesota paying the equivalent of 46 cents a litre when my

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constituents in Nakina, Ontario, are paying more than 63 cents a litre?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the reason is that taxes in Canada account for approximately a third of the cost of gasoline. Canadians are paying for medicare, old age pensions and other social services at the gas pump; Americans are not.

#### WORLD OIL PRICES

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not addressing the issue of falling world prices. When world oil prices rise there is almost immediately a price increase at the pumps. Now, when they are falling, there is a long delay before there is even a small decrease in the price of gasoline at the pumps. Will the Minister explain why?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hon. Member would not willfully mislead the House, so I assume that he has forgotten that under the Conservative regime, when my colleague, the present House Leader, was the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, he put in place a mechanism to ensure that price increases could not be imposed for 60 days to allow those increases to move through the system. Similarly, I have advised the House that, as crude prices come down and those decreases to through the system—I remind the House that Canadian companies dropped the price of crude last week—we expect that Canadians will have some benefit at the pump.

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#### PETRO-CANADA

##### ONTARIO GOVERNMENT STUDY

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He indicated that at some point the Government might be prepared to sell some part of Petro-Canada to the private sector. Does he not recognize that a report commissioned for the previous Conservative Government in Ontario stated that the Government must act so as to protect minority shareholder interests and cannot operate as an instrument of over-all government policy if it sells part of its shares publicly? Is that what he wants to see happen?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, of course that is not what we want to see happen. That is why we are proceeding with such care to examine the issue of public participation in Petro-Canada.

#### GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, am I to understand from the Minister's answer that it is no longer Government policy to sell off part of Petro-Canada but that she is considering the possibility? Is it Government policy to sell off