

*Oral Questions*

out to Quebec citizens, what does the Prime Minister intend to do to remedy that situation?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I shall make sure that all Canadian citizens understand exactly what the federal government has contributed to the development of the province of Quebec.

## QUEBEC REFERENDUM—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice):** One last supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

● (1415)

[English]

In light of a statement made Friday to a reporter, to the effect that he does not want to be the Abraham Lincoln of Canada, and since the Conservative party is not planning to join the "No" group in the referendum, and as the Prime Minister is continuing his offhand policy of appeasement, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to become the Neville Chamberlain of Canada?

[Translation]

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as Prime Minister of Canada, I intend to prove to Quebecers that we now have here in Ottawa a government that is determined to have a type of federalism that is open enough to make it comfortable for Quebecers who want to build their future and achieve their personal fulfilment within a large country.

[English]

## QUEBEC REFERENDUM—GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION UNDER PRO-FEDERALIST UMBRELLA

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Each time we have asked the Prime Minister whether he and his Quebec ministers and the Conservative party intend to join the pro-federalist umbrella committee under Quebec referendum Bill 92, he has failed to give us an answer but has merely repeated the same kind of answer he made to the last question, that he is interested in renewing federalism and he is going to change the status quo of federalism, mentioning lotteries and offshore mineral rights, the validity of which we question. In any case, he has failed to answer the question.

I want to know clearly from him whether he—along with his Quebec ministers—is, or is not, going to participate in the pro-federalist umbrella committee that will campaign for the "No" option in the referendum? Will he answer that question?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to repeat the assurance that members of the Progressive Conservative Party will participate in the umbrella committee opposing the option against federalism in the province of Quebec. I am pleased to repeat that.

[Mr. Chrétien.]

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

**An hon. Member:** He said the contrary last week.

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Last week, prior to the white paper, and repeated in this House, his Minister of Supply and Services said he may want to vote "Yes" or "No" on the referendum question.

**An hon. Member:** Another flip-flop.

**Mr. Allmand:** This was repeated by the senator-minister in charge of CIDA. He said the same thing and, as a matter of fact, the Prime Minister said in the House that he wanted to reserve his answer to that question until he had seen the question.

Since the white paper has been published, and in view of what he has just said, has he spoken to the Minister of Supply and Services and to the minister responsible for CIDA and told them that they are to vote and campaign for the "No" answer in this referendum campaign? Has he spoken to them?

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to them. There was no need to tell them that. That was their intention, as I made clear in the House the other day.

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## ENERGY

## OIL PRICE AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA—STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have just learned that the Prime Minister is about to give Canadians a horrendous Christmas present, and I would like to put the following question to him. Can the minister confirm that an energy agreement with Alberta has been arrived at as outlined in a document entitled "An Outline of the Initial Stage of National Energy Strategy," in which it is agreed that Canada will be paying near the world price for oil by 1983, namely, \$29.75 a barrel, an increase of 120 per cent over the current domestic price; and does he not acknowledge that such a staggering price increase will deal a massive blow to Canadian consumers, workers and the economy in general?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that an agreement with the province of Alberta has not been arrived at. I can confirm that my expectation is that it will be possible for us—within, I would hope, the next several days—to get agreement involving all of the provinces of Canada and the federal government in respect of a general energy package.

● (1420)

**Mr. Symes:** Considering that a source in the Prime Minister's office has said that the agreement is 99 per cent certain, I do not think the Prime Minister is reflecting accurately the current stage of the pricing situation.