

unfair tax burden for years. The PCC will, however, be increased on this industry's crude oil consumption for energy requirements.

The recent announcement by the Government of the Province of Alberta to the effect that ethylene producers there would receive bridge financing amounting to 25 per cent of their tax burden to relieve the fiscal problems of our gas based Canadian petrochemical industry, is an indication that Alberta felt it must take the initiative while waiting for federal government energy policy action. I submit this action by Alberta has swung the pendulum over to the gas-based petrochemical side of the arc and something must be done to equalize the situation.

The Ontario oil-based companies, which are now paying more for their crude oil used for energy requirements, can ill afford any increase in their tax loads. I must serve the Government with notice that the situation is, for some, fast becoming intolerable. I submit the job is not nearly finished.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

POSTPONEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP INCREASE URGED

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I rise to request that our new Government curtail the cost of government. In his speech to the House on November 8 the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) set Canada on a new course of restraint and review, urging Members to find ways not only to reduce the federal deficit but, in his words, "to reduce the burden of unnecessary government". Surely my colleagues in this House will agree that Members of Parliament are effective legislators and problem solvers and that they perform a valuable service to our nation, but how many members are enough? Two hundred and eleven? Two hundred and eighty-two?

The Canadian Electoral Boundaries Commission, under the authority of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, will soon recommend that our number grow to 310, five new members in British Columbia alone.

Members of Parliament perform a valuable service, Mr. Speaker, but we are expensive. Now that my Government has shown the lead by reducing the salaries of senior Ministers, I respectfully ask that my Government postpone the readjustment of electoral boundaries until the economy of our nation improves. The savings to the treasury would total in the millions.

Oral Questions

PRAIRIE FARM REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

DELAY IN LAND TITLE TRANSFERS

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, a number of Canadians have expressed concern at delays they have encountered in securing expeditious transfer of title to land from the Crown, particularly in their dealings with the PFRA. The PFRA during the 1930s and 1940s constructed a number of water storage reservoirs and irrigation projects which it continues to operate. Some years ago the sale of land by Canada within the irrigation projects commenced at the individual lessee's request. Agreements for sale were made, and now, when the purchaser wants to acquire actual title to the land, considerable problems arise.

The purchaser requests letters patent and makes final payment for the land. From that point forward the request follows a complex series of procedures involving surveys, searches, translation, ministerial approval, Privy Council approval, preparation of documents by the Department of Justice, reviews by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and land titles office processing.

Transfer of title requires up to 20 months following the existing procedures. These excessive time delays cause considerable hardship to those individuals involved. They ask the Ministers to review this currently untenable situation with a view to streamlining the process.

• (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

ABELLA REPORT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Report on Equality and Employment prepared by the Commission headed by Judge Rosalie Abella says clearly that equal pay for work of equal value is an essential part of employment equity and contract compliance. My question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. During the Party Leaders' debate in the course of the election campaign, the Prime Minister said that not only he supported the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, but he added, and I quote: "I am prepared to go even further." My question is: Has he already given some very clear directives to his ministers, to use his own words, for starting the job classification process, as promised during the election campaign?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, yes, I have initiated the process. Meanwhile, I am reading and analysing Judge Abella's very impressive and timely