

*Oral Questions*

costs for this home heating oil. Those discussions are continuing. There is some conflict as to the actual cost involved both in refurbishing the pipeline and of the product itself.

**Mr. Baker:** Are similar discussions being carried on in other areas of Ontario? Are similar assessments being conducted in other parts of Canada and, if so, where?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I think there is a unique situation here in view of the re-establishment of the pipeline link. There has been a far-reaching discussion with the industry concerning the impact on their over-all cost position of the ability to move western Canadian oil into the eastern market and the costs involved in this movement whether by pipeline or by ship.

OIL—METHOD AND CRITERIA TO BE USED IN ESTABLISHING ONE-PRICE SYSTEM FOR CANADIAN CRUDE

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact the minister speaks of a one-price system for Canadian crude, will he tell the House what mechanism the government is using to set this price? Is it to be set by the cabinet or is it to be set by the board? What criteria will be used in setting the price of Canadian crude in the future?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** This is one of the questions which is presently under discussion with certain of the interested provinces. It will be a matter with which parliament will be asked to deal later this month. At the moment it is a matter for discussion.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASES IN PRICE OF BREAD—ACTIVITIES OF FLOUR MILLING COMPANIES AS FACTOR

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, the question I should like to direct is intended for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The other day I asked him about the relationship between the flour milling companies and their subsidiary companies which are engaged in the baking industry. I asked him whether or not those flour milling companies, because they control wholly-owned bakeries, are padding the price and thus inflating the cost of the end product, namely, bread. Can the minister tell us what he has discovered about this situation?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** When this question was asked the other day I said my authority in this area derived from the Combines Investigation Act and that I would be pleased to have the director look into any evidence which might indicate breaches of the act in this domain. As far as other forms of inquiry are concerned, I have not yet had an opportunity to carry them out, but I am prepared to see what further information can be obtained.

**Mr. Howard:** Rather than ask a supplementary question, I shall raise a question of privilege. While I shall not level

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

the accusation directly now, the answer the minister just gave leads me to believe that he is either knowingly misleading the House or is misleading it out of ignorance. He has twice—both today and the other day—said he would refer this subject matter to the Director of Research and Investigation of the Combines Investigation Branch. I submit this is an attempt to mislead the House and the country into thinking that he and his department are going to do something—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that is hardly a question of privilege. It is debate. He does not agree with the statement made by the minister. It is a long established rule of the House that a dispute as to facts cannot form the basis of a question of privilege. The hon. member is debating an issue. The question period is so short that I would hope hon. members would not use it for alleged questions of privilege.

**Mr. Howard:** On the question of privilege, if Your Honour will permit me to speak to the point for just a moment, as I said, one could very easily level the accusation that the minister is deliberately misleading the House. If I do that, that is a question of privilege. Twice, now, the minister has told us he has referred this matter to the director of the combines investigation branch though, in fact, there is no director and there has been no director for over a year. That office is vacant.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member uses a strange argument. He says, "If I made the charge, that would be a question of privilege, but I am not making the charge and therefore I have a question of privilege." This is an argument between himself and the minister, and I would hope we could continue with the next question.

**Mr. Howard:** Let me say, then, that the minister has deliberately misled the House in giving those answers to those particular questions.

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows as well as I do that he cannot charge another member, whether he be a minister or not, with deliberately or wilfully misleading the House. That is entirely unparliamentary. The hon. member cannot make such a statement. I will hear the minister first because he has been impugned by the accusation or charge now being made by the hon. member for Skeena.

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to lower myself to the hon. member's level—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gray:** —but I do wish to put on the record that the position of director of the combines branch is being filled very capably on an acting basis by Mr. J. J. Quinlan.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Skeena cannot flout the rules. He has the same responsibility as