

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

REQUEST GOVERNMENT NOT INCREASE PREMIUMS—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Raymond Savard (Verdun): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, I ask for the unanimous consent of the House to move a motion dealing with an important matter of pressing necessity.

In view of the fact that it is the intention of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Atkey) to raise unemployment insurance premiums and force Canadian workers to carry the burden of a higher unemployment rate, which is a consequence of the policies of this government, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Blainville-Deux-Montagnes (Mr. Fox):

That this House instruct the government not to impose higher unemployment insurance premiums on Canadian workers.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the hon. member's motion. Pursuant to Standing Order 43, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ENERGY

TAXES PAID BY MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. According to this morning's paper, the president of Shell Canada, a company that paid no taxes last year on \$360 million income—

Mr. Crosbie: Under your policy.

Mr. Lalonde:—and whose profits have risen by 66 per cent in the last year—

● (1415)

Mr. Crosbie: Don't be such a hypocrite.

Mr. Lalonde: According to press reports, the president of this company is threatening to cut its program to invest in exploration and capital investment in energy development if it does not get even higher prices and the tax incentive guarantees that it wants. My question to the minister is this: In the face of this fresh evidence as to what it means to be at the mercy of

Oral Questions

multinationals to ensure Canada's future energy security, does the government remain committed to dismantling Petro-Canada and thus tossing away our best chance at long-term security of energy supply and independence from petroleum multinationals?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not think it needs reiteration in this House to say that the whole question with respect to the attitude the hon. member takes toward the role of multinationals in this country is not unrelated to the position taken by the previous government. This government is interested in and will take steps to encourage Canadian participation and control of its resources. If in his statement there is reference to any dismantling of Petro-Canada, it is misleading. The fact is that we intend to strengthen this corporation to make it more viable.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The hon. member and his party are trying to stand in the way of this innovative process which we are undertaking.

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[Translation]

PETRO-CANADA

DISPOSITION OF CORPORATION BEFORE BUDGET

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the report of the task force on Petro-Canada contains a recommendation which would substantially increase the tax burden of the federal government, and in view of the statement made by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources which would also add to the burden of Canadian taxpayers as far as Canada's energy policy is concerned, can the Minister of Finance tell us whether we will be advised of the future of Petro-Canada prior to the budget speech on December 11, or will this question remain a vague hypothesis which will be settled only after his budget?

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the world and Petro-Canada will unfold as they should, and there will be an announcement on Petro-Canada.

An hon. Member: Arrogance.

Mr. Crosbie: When you talk of arrogance, what about the question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!