

*Oral Questions*

view of the fact that a recreational vehicle dealers show was booked into the centre for March 20 to 23 and was asked, on December 6, to cancel their show because the CBC said they would not televise the convention if they could not get in two weeks ahead of time, would the minister advise the House, first, why the televising of a political convention by a Crown corporation takes precedence over a private enterprise program and, second, can he tell me whether the corporation will reimburse the recreational vehicle association for their brochure printing out of their \$4 million budget?

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

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

**Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** I would assume, Mr. Speaker, that both recreational events can be looked after adequately, but I will check with the corporation to see whether or not there is a problem with this location.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The House will recall the slight delay at the beginning of the question period. The last question to be recognized will be at five minutes past three o'clock.

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**THE BUDGET**

## IMPACT OF RISING OIL PRICES ON NORTHERN RESIDENTS

**Mr. Peter Ittinuar (Nunatsiak):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that the Yukon and the Northwest Territories are totally dependent on oil as an energy source, and whereas the severe climate makes residents of these territories the highest consumers of heating oil in the country, will the minister agree to revise the budget to include measures that will cushion the impact of rising oil prices on northern residents?

● (1500)

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member no doubt knows, the measures announced in the budget have no effect: there is no excise tax involved with respect to heating oil. With respect to the question of future increases in oil and gas prices and their effect on the people of that area, certainly that is something we can take into consideration. If there were to be a program to assist in that area, the difficulty is boundaries because, of course, there are northern areas of Canada right across the whole continent; there are areas which are more south that are just as cold as the far north, and other problems of that nature.

**Mr. Ittinuar:** Mr. Speaker, the minister allowed super depletion allowances for frontier packages in exploration, yet he is deplete of answers for northern residents.

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

[Mr. Lane.]

**Mr. Ittinuar:** On October 29, 1979, the minister told the House that he was very sympathetic to the economic problems of northern residents. Today I received a telegram from Yellowknife, in the western Arctic, which is a Conservative riding—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Does the hon. member wish to put a supplementary question?

**Mr. Ittinuar:** Can the minister explain why oil prices are being cushioned in the Atlantic provinces while residents of the Arctic are left to fend for themselves?

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, I can only suggest that the hon. gentleman wait until the full plentitude of our energy program is outlined.

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

**An hon. Member:** Did the minister say "platitude"?

**Mr. Crosbie:** They do not like this, Mr. Speaker, because they are afraid we might do something that they will be happy about.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** The proceeds from the energy tax will be used in many ways to help in the area of conservation and energy alternatives generally.

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**THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION**

## RENEWED FEDERALISM—INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL SOON ADOPT CONCRETE MEASURES

**Mr. Denis Ethier (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell):** Mr. Speaker, I have a document in my possession indicating that the Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations recommended, at one of their caucus committee meetings, that they put forward proposals regarding symbolic actions the government can implement to promote the concept of a renewed federalism.

[Translation]

My question is as follows: Could he assure the House that in view of the judgment of the Supreme Court he will stop speaking about symbolic action and will very soon do something concerning renewed federalism?

**Hon. Bill Jarvis (Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have taken concrete action as a government since May 22 and that some of our other initiatives are also important for Canadians. We have made some progress. I am not sure which document the hon. member has in his possession, but I would like to see it. I think