

*Oral Questions*

Minister responsible for Consumer and Corporate Affairs to please answer to this House why she is allowing Petro-Canada, Shell, Imperial Oil, Gulf and Texaco to have secret meetings and set a location from which fuel will be picked up at one specific refinery. The price is fixed at that refinery. It could be Petro-Canada or Shell. As a result, all of the people in that marketing area, including some in Ottawa, have been paying as much as 50 cents a gallon more than people in Peterborough because the price is fixed.

The ripoff is occurring. For eight years the Liberal Government has done nothing to interfere with the price fixing that is going on within the oil industry.

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is aware that the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission is holding hearings. Those hearings just received a very comprehensive report from the Bureau of Competition. I wish the Hon. Member would take a careful look at it. Other than that, I think it is best for us to remain silent until the full story is told. He can rest assured that the Government will take appropriate measures once they are suggested by the Commission.

## INDEPENDENT SERVICE STATIONS—REQUEST FOR FREEDOM OF COMPETITION

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, this has been going on since 1958. I have been in the fuel oil business for 25 years. You know as Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that that ripoff is occurring. For eight years you have had a commission studying it, you and—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Domm:** —the former Minister responsible for Consumer and Corporate Affairs. The position of your own solicitor, Gordon Kaiser, is that the Government should intervene to stop the fixing of prices by the major oil companies in Canada and allow the independent retail service stations of this nation to buy their product wherever they want to buy it, not from those who fix the prices.

● (1500)

**Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Again, Mr. Speaker, I would recommend to the Hon. Member that he pay close attention to the inquiry which is taking place now, and if he can wait six more months we will have the answers to the questions he is raising. I can assure the Hon. Member that I am as anxious as he is. I would also like to comment, Mr. Speaker, that the Hon. Member may have had a lot of practice in the oil business, but I notice he has not been particularly successful lately.

## PETITIONS

## TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions, with the exception of one, presented by Hon. Members on Wednesday, February 22, 1984, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

One of the petitions presented by the Hon. Member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. Scott) does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

## WEEKLY STATEMENT

**Mr. Nielsen:** I rise on a point of order, Sir. Could the Government House Leader inform us as to the business for tomorrow? Since the House will be rising at the close of business tomorrow for the mid-term break and will not be returning until March 5, can he give us some indication of the business which he intends to call, at least for the first day or two, March 5 and March 6, and as far into the week as he can take us?

**Mr. Pinard:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow we will start debating Bill C-10. Following the winter break, on Monday we will have the fifth day of debate on the Budget and Tuesday will be the sixth and last day of debate on the Budget. I am prepared to go even further, if the Hon. Member is interested. On the Wednesday and Thursday following we will be debating Bill C-21.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I thank the Government House Leader for that information. While the Hon. Member for Algoma, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, is in his seat, would the Hon. Member, as Chairman of that Standing Committee, indicate when he is going to call the Committee together to deal with the assurances given by the Prime Minister last January 19?

The statutory report of the Chief Electoral Officer for 1983, which was automatically referred to the Committee and is waiting there to be dealt with, deals, among other things, with Section 72 of the Canada Elections Act, formerly Bill C-169. When is he going to call the Committee together so that that report, and Section 72 in particular, can receive the complete review which the Prime Minister assured us last January 19 would be happening?

**Mr. Foster:** Mr. Speaker, the Steering Committee met yesterday and we are planning to call the first meeting of the Committee on March 20. However, the exact agenda for that meeting will depend on the decision of the Committee as to what work to take up at that time.

**Mr. Nielsen:** This question then might be appropriate, Mr. Speaker. I think perhaps the Steering Committee might want to give some thought to meeting to consider this important