

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Gauthier:** Hypocrites is not exactly parliamentary!

**An Hon. Member:** He's an expert in the field.

## REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF O'FARRELL REPORT

**Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau):** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Prime Minister will not reply directly to the question.

I am going to ask another question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post who, I am sure, did not mean to mislead the House when he replied to the question directed to him by the Leader of the Official Opposition.

We have asked him whether he would make public the O'Farrell report. Thanks to our new system, I could listen to and review this morning the press conference which he gave on December 17 and during which, on eight occasions, he promised to make it public.

Why does he not make this report public? Is he afraid of something? Is it because this report is blaming the Conservative Government for needlessly closing this refinery?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I think I can answer that very simply by saying that on December 17, as soon as I was made aware of the findings and conclusions of the director concerning the legality of the Ultramar-Gulf transaction, I immediately made them public. It is in this spirit that my colleague had put this question to me in the House a few days earlier.

So I complied with these requests from the press and the Opposition as soon as I was made aware of these recommendations.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister was commenting the interim report of the Director of Investigation and, on eight occasions that evening, he promised the journalists who were interviewing him that he would make public the final report within the next few days.

Well, I know that he has now received this report. Is he going to make it public? Yesterday, he told us that the issue of the Gulf-Ultramar deal would be referred to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission of Canada. Will he have the decency to allow this Commission to hold public hearings? Like those in the case of—

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is clear for a supplementary, I believe.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Côté (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, I feel I answered that question fully yesterday.

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no!

**Mr. Côté (Langelier):** I said simply that the findings and recommendations of the Director had been or would be sent to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission of Canada, a quasi-judicial commission over which I have no control, which would determine the impact and make recommendations in early 1986.

● (1425)

## REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF QUEBEC OIL REFINING CAPACITY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Before Christmas, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs said that there was a surplus refining capacity in Quebec. Yesterday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said the exact opposite. Who is right?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think that the answers which have already been given should satisfy my honourable friend. Here are the facts. In east-end Montreal, there used to be refineries, such as Texaco, which was killed by the Liberal Government, BP, killed by the Liberal Government, and Esso, killed by the Liberal Government. The Liberals caused the loss of 1,100 jobs in east-end Montreal. They remained completely silent. They did not have the guts to rise even once to protest against this. They tried to kill off Petromont. We have invested \$69 million to save the Quebec petro-chemical industry and we shall be doing even more during the next few days.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Once more, the Prime Minister does not reply to the questions.

**An Hon. Member:** He never does.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Today, I have had conversations with officials of the Quebec Government, including the Quebec Energy Minister, and they say that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is right. More specifically, the Quebec Government suggests that there is now a shortage of refining capacity in Quebec.

## SALE OF GULF REFINERY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** My supplementary is for the Prime Minister. Is he now saying that neither the Quebec Government nor the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is right?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the replies of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs are consistent not only with other replies, but in addition, on September 16, 1983, the following headlines could be found in the newspapers: Chrétien refuses to promise an intervention in the refinery closings; Energy Minister Jean