

Oral Questions

to its budget. How can Canadians be expected to believe that the Government is serious about protecting our Canadian identity?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have seen the same reports and I fail to see how expenditures of \$846.8 million in taxpayers' money in this fiscal year, and, I believe, \$825.8 million last year, can be in any way described as destructive of the CBC.

Mrs. Finestone: I don't know whether we will have any Canadian industries left as a result of the way you are speaking and whether we will have any cultural identity left.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister take Mr. Juneau seriously, go back to the drawing board and reconsider his program so that our cultural identity can be reflected through a proper communicating mechanism?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. lady comes from, but—

Mrs. Finestone: Mount Royal.

Mr. Nielsen: I know the riding of the Hon. Member. But where I come from, \$850 million does mean something.

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FINANCE

REPORTED SYNCRUDE TAX REMISSION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On February 13, 1981, I asked the Minister of Finance of that day, Mr. MacEachen, how the Government would pay for the take-over of Petrofina by Petro-Canada. The present Minister of Finance is aware of this because he was the Conservative energy critic when I asked that question. I am still waiting for the answer, as is the Auditor General.

Given the facts raised by my Leader today about Syncrude and its getting tax remissions from 1978 to the year 2002, would the Minister of Finance undertake to come back to the House after the break with the particular figures of how much Syncrude will benefit from those tax remissions?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I said, I do not give snap answers on the floor of the House of Commons on matters about which I must make a careful study before giving an answer. I have indicated to his Leader that I would look into the problem. Surely that is good enough for now. If he wants to pose the question on November 18, maybe I will have a different answer.

● (1430)

AUDITOR GENERAL

ACCESS TO PETROFINA ACQUISITION DOCUMENTS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, given that both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General of Canada, used to be in opposition and appreciate the difficulty of Opposition Members getting answers to these questions, will the Minister of Justice now tell the House that he is prepared to go along with the views of the Auditor General, the servant of Parliament, who says he will not abuse his authority if the Government does not appeal the decision of Mr. Justice Jerome, and give some access to those Government documents in the Petrofina case?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have no hesitation repeating that if there is no appeal of that judgment, we will certainly co-operate with the effect of the judgment—

Mr. Broadbent: I guess you have to.

Mr. Crosbie:—and with the Auditor General, whether we have to or not. The Hon. Leader of the NDP would not know whether we have to or not—

Mr. Broadbent: Brr, brr!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: There is living proof of the imbecility of the Leader of the NDP.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

THE CABINET

GUIDELINES FOR MINISTERIAL TRIPS OUTSIDE CANADA

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, we now know what the Prime Minister forgot yesterday, namely that there are guidelines for authorizations for travel abroad by Ministers. I would like to ask the Deputy Prime Minister, and to refresh his memory, I would like to quote from a letter sent by the Minister of State (Transport) to her colleague at External Affairs:

"In accordance with the guidelines contained in the Prime Minister's letter of January 14 concerning authorizations for travel abroad by Ministers, please find enclosed a copy of the letter I sent to Mr. MacAdam".

Are these guidelines and in this letter dated January 14, 1985, going to be published, and is the Government going to explain what role, mandate and authority Mr. Pat MacAdam was given with respect to the approval of these trips?