

*Business of the House*

## FINANCE

## COMMODITY TAX SYSTEM—EFFECT OF CHANGES ON MUNICIPALITIES

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. There is serious concern in the form of a resolution to be submitted by the City of Saskatoon and numerous Canadian cities at the meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities next week regarding the implications for property taxes by the business transfer tax and the potential value added type taxes. Will the Minister clarify the implications of the new taxes for municipalities? Are rebates to local governments an option being considered?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have indicated that there will be a process that we will be going through in consideration of any change in the commodity tax system. It will be initiated by a discussion paper following consultation with a wide range of people who could be impacted by it, including the municipalities. We have felt it important that there be consideration given to an appropriate transition system to assist the transition to the implementation of such a tax, if it were to be levied. That, in addition, is something upon which the municipalities could comment.

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## ENERGY

## PRICE OF AVIATION FUEL

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Can the Parliamentary Secretary explain to the House and to the country why the price of aviation fuel in Canada has dropped so very slightly despite the decline in world oil prices? For example, the price of aviation fuel in northern Ontario has gone down by only 2 cents a litre between January and May.

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, a large number of the airports and flying clubs signed bulk contracts for aviation fuel. These are being negotiated all the time. The prices fluctuate from flying club to flying club and from airport to airport. In some areas they are down further than others. That is the market system working. That is the explanation to the Hon. Member.

## PRICE OF HOME HEATING OIL

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior):** Mr. Speaker, that is no answer at all. The market system is not working. Can the Parliamentary Secretary explain to the House why the price of home heating oil has failed to decline appreciably? In Kapuskasing, Ontario, for example, between January and May the price of home heating oil has gone down by only 3 cents a litre. Why is that?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, because they are still using up the old supplies.

**Mr. Penner:** That is not true. That is wrong.

**Mr. McDermid:** In this country we demand that over the winter there be 100-day supplies of heating oil. As the Hon. Member knows, we had a mild winter and those supplies have not all been used up yet. I think the Hon. Member will find that the price for heating oil will be dropping rather significantly in the next month or two.

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● (1200)

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

**Mr. Gray (Windsor West):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked for a statement on government business. At that time, the Government was not ready to give us a statement. I hope it is at the present time.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I apologize. For personal reasons, I was not in the House yesterday. I thought I had made it quite clear that I would respond on my return to Ottawa.

Today is an allotted day for a motion put by the Official Opposition. On Monday, we will take up the following items of legislation: Bill C-86, the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation legislation, on third reading; Bill C-109, the Income Tax Act, the scientific research tax credit legislation, report stage and, I hope, third reading; Bill C-91, an Act with respect to the competition tribunal which is at report stage, and I hope we will make progress on that; Bill C-75, an Act to amend the Shipping Act at third reading; Bill C-112, the Energy Administration Act at second reading; Bill C-19, Bell Canada reorganization at report stage; Bill C-95, the Archives Act; and Bill C-90, an Act respecting pension plans at report stage. On Monday, we will see what kind of progress we will make and what we can do on Tuesday.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

## PETITIONS

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table in both official languages the Government's response to four petitions: Nos. 331-424, 331-432, 331-433 and 331-501.