

*Oral Questions*REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ACCELERATE LEAD REMOVAL
DEADLINE

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and it also concerns leaded gasoline. I wish to obtain from the Minister an answer that would indicate to us whether he is willing to accelerate the deadline for reducing lead in gasoline from the planned date of 1993 to 1990, as it was originally indicated as a feasible and possible date by the Royal Society of Canada. Is the Minister willing to give us that commitment today?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to give that commitment. As I said to the Hon. Member for Broadview—Greenwood, that report had been given to us. The effective date is December 31, 1992.

The Minister of the Environment and I have asked our respective Departments for further recommendations, and I cannot go beyond that at the present time.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. Will the Minister at least indicate to the House when he will report to the House indicating his decision in light of the additional study that he has requested, considering the fact that a number of studies that have been conducted on the subject north and south of the border indicate that lead is a very poisonous element in human blood?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I want to ensure that we understand the manner in which the word "study" is being used. I did not ask for a further study as to the validity of lead poisoning. The evidence is quite clear, and that is not the argument, but rather if changes were to be made, or additional steps to be taken with respect to lead poisoning, what would be the various administrative details that we would have to consider, plus any other considerations. It is in that area that I have asked for further information rather than a further study confirming what we already know in terms of lead poisoning.

* * *

ENERGY

SALE OF TEXACO CANADA

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy. I am sure the Minister is aware that last Thursday the Petroleum Monitoring Agency published a report that stated in the last two years Canadian ownership in petroleum has declined by some 5 per cent, and Canadian control in petroleum has declined by some 13 per cent.

In light of the objective of the federal Government to have some 50 per cent Canadian ownership in the petroleum industry, I wonder if the Minister, as the Minister in charge of energy in this country, and considering that Texaco Canada is now for sale, can tell us what he is doing to ensure that this corporation is Canadianized in order to restore some of the balance and meet the objective of the Government that 50 per cent of the petroleum industry is Canadian owned.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the statistics published by the Petroleum Monitoring Agency show the direction in which the petroleum industry is going. Some years it may be going in one direction and other years in another direction, but this does not in any way affect the objectives and goals pursued by the Government of Canada with respect to the Canadianization of the upstream component of our petroleum industry. As for Texaco, Mr. Speaker, for the time being this is a private transaction that will take place in accordance with the regulatory system existing in this country, especially if it includes investments in Canada.

[English]

ROLE OF INVESTMENT CANADA

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that control of the petroleum industry in this country by Canadians has declined by a sharp 13 per cent in two years, which is very significant, is the Minister now contemplating giving any special instructions to Investment Canada to ensure when Texaco Canada—which is foreign controlled—is sold, that it is sold to Canadians in order to Canadianize the industry?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, that is not exactly the way business transactions are handled in a free enterprise country. If there is any reason for Investment Canada to be consulted and to intervene, this will involve the co-operation of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the Minister responsible for Investment Canada.

* * *

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—
GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of International Trade. Today Canadians were shocked to learn that the Government increased the free trade advertising budget by an additional \$6 million after public opinion polls indicated that