

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Maily: Now then, Mr. Speaker, to get back—

[*English*]

Mr. Gauthier: A point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am ruling that the Hon. Member has withdrawn the statement she made. If the Hon. Member has a point of order, I will hear it.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that when the Speaker orders a Member to withdraw, the rule is that there be an unequivocal withdrawal. That was not an unequivocal withdrawal and the Speaker knows it. If we want to set new precedents in the House, we can.

● (1500)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): An unequivocal withdrawal is very hard to get in this Chamber, I must say to the Hon. Member, who has been here for a long time. What the Hon. Member has done, as far as I am concerned and the Chair is so ruling, I consider to be a very fine withdrawal in this regard, particularly on Friday, March 21.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Maily: For instance, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) is wrong when he says that we let the market place set Canada's oil policy and that it was harmful to the consumer. Indeed, had we followed the energy policy of the Liberal Government the consumer would not now be able to benefit from falling prices because the Liberal Government had set up a system of administered prices which would have prevented them from dropping since there was a compensation charge.

Second, he said that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) did not intervene in this case, but apparently he forgot—perhaps he was not in the House at the time—that when world prices first began to come down she told the oil companies' representatives that they would eventually have to pass on to the consumer any savings resulting from declining crude oil prices. Therefore it is not true to say that she did not intervene in this case.

On the other hand, when he talks about canadianizing the industry—

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I hope that the Hon. Member will come to a question, please.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Maily: As you know, Mr. Speaker, I have been interrupted so many times that it is difficult for me to carry on with my question. However, I should like to mention for instance the fact that under the previous Liberal administration, the purpose of Canadianization was to force small Canadian companies to join huge foreign oil consortia to

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become eligible to the tax breaks under the National Energy Policy, which meant that instead of developing under a free market system, the small businesses were crushed by the foreign oil corporations.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I think the Hon. Member has had ample time. The Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) may reply or rebut.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Garneau: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member who has just spoken has failed to understand what is at the heart of the debate, as evidenced by her questions . . . or rather her comments. She submits today that the Minister has intervened, while the Minister herself has indicated on several occasions in the House that she would not intervene in order from now on to allow free market forces to operate. She would weekly suggest to the oil multinationals to lower their prices, at a time when she herself, as a Member of this Government, is a shareholder of the company which refuses most stubbornly to lower its prices at the pumps, the same company which is paying our small producers the international price instead of the average Texas posted prices as before.

Which means that the Government, because of its decision not to intervene, will turn over the whole management of Canadian energy resources to four or five Canadian companies equipped with refinery facilities and a distribution network, and also to a foreign cartel which, through production control, may impose, more or less successfully, the prices which Canadian consumers will have to pay at the pumps, which brings me back to the gist of my remarks. If someone in this country is to determine the price which Canadian men and women will have to pay for gas at the pumps, it should be the Government of my country, because if I am dissatisfied, I may, together with other Canadian voters, change the Government; however, there is nothing anybody can do against the OPEC cartel or for that matter, against the presidents of Petro-Canada or Imperial Oil.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I will allow another two minutes or so with regard to questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides. I would like to call upon the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) and then the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker). Will they make it brief, please?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the finance critic of the Liberal Party. He has referred to Canadian unity and to problems between Eastern and Western Canada. Would he be in favour of a floor price for oil producers in Western Canada?