

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I must confess my own impression is that it would be a parliamentary declaration involving a position taken by both Houses. I would have to verify whether the text implies otherwise and perhaps report to the House again after discussion with the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the fact that subclause 9 of Motion No. 1 in the order of business for today provides that "if either House of Parliament negatives the motion that an order made under subsection 1 be concurred in, the order is thereupon revoked"—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will allow the Prime Minister to reply to the hon. member but I am sure he appreciates that we are now clearly anticipating an order of the day and I doubt we should become involved during the question period in a discussion of the business which will be coming up later today or tomorrow. However, subject to this caution the Prime Minister might be allowed to reply.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I will simply let my previous answer stand.

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the fact that some members of the other place, some Senators, are directors of oil corporations and businesses related to the oil industry, and bearing in mind that this is the elected House of Parliament, will the Prime Minister give consideration to revising the motion in the name of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources so that the House of Commons will be given the final right of decision on this issue rather than the Senate?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair must refer again to the suggestion made a few moments ago that we are becoming involved in debate relating to an order of the day and are clearly anticipating that debate. I would hope the important matter raised by the hon. member for York South might be considered and debated in some other way than during the question period.

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[Translation]

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

##### MEASURES TO PREVENT OFFSETTING OF OLD AGE PENSION INCREASES BY INCREASES IN HOUSING COSTS

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Does the minister intend to take specific action so that old age security beneficiaries may receive the full increases in allowances which, at least in the province of Quebec, are being grabbed by senior citizens' homes?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I already contacted many times my provincial counterparts on this matter, but I think the hon. member will have to call upon his colleagues of the

#### Oral Questions

National Assembly of Quebec so that appropriate representations may be made to solve the problem.

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● (1430)

[English]

#### ENERGY

##### OIL—JUSTIFICATION FOR ESTIMATED SUPPLY SHORTFALL IN EASTERN CANADA AND PRICE INCREASES

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Have there been any late inventories taken which would satisfy the minister that the estimated shortfall of oil supplies for eastern Canada can be justified, and is the minister able to tell the House whether or not some of the increases already made in the price of crude in eastern Canada can be justified in light of these circumstances?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the hon. gentleman is mixing the two questions of price and supply. In terms of supply, the recent judgment given to the standing committee by the chairman of the technical advisory committee was that at the moment the anticipated levels of interruption later this winter have not been changed, though we have had the advantage of a rather milder winter so far than we had anticipated. With regard to the question of price, as the hon. gentleman may recall—he can examine the proceedings of the committee—detailed calculations regarding the cost increases of the various eastern Canadian refiners were set out there. In addition to those, there may indeed be action at the retail level on the part of individual retailers to obtain a higher level of price, but my understanding is that these are wholesale levels to which the refiners have adhered.

**Mr. McGrath:** I wonder whether the minister would reply to the first part of the question, which is prompted by the substantial inventories in place at Come-By-Chance, Newfoundland. In face of these inventories, is the minister now prepared to re-examine the estimated shortfall?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** That had been taken into account in the earlier estimates that were made. It appears that the refinery may be in a position to start moving some heating oil, and if anticipated difficulties do not materialize there the inventory situation, of course, will be much improved.

[Translation]

##### RELATIONSHIP OF QUEBEC POSITION TO DELAY IN COMMENCING OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL

**Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

On January 7, the minister indicated that this government had had discussions only with the Interprovincial Pipelines Corporation. Can he tell the House whether the