

Oral Questions

the statement attributed to the Minister of Justice adds to that confusion.

Would the Prime Minister not agree that we cannot afford to wait five more weeks for the Budget of the Minister of Finance in order to clear that up? Will he ask the Minister of Finance, or direct him if need be, to make an economic statement now about where the Government is going with regard to the deficit and the dollar?

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Where is Bob White?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the falsity of the affirmation of my hon. friend is clearly established by the OECD report. I know it was inadvertent, because my hon. friend clearly forgot the OECD report which categorized the action of the Government of Canada as being clear, consistent, logical, and destined to bring about great economic progress. I think he would be happy with the fact that the OECD gave Canada what I think can be described as very high reviews as a result of the policy instituted by the Hon. Minister of Finance. They substantially refer to coherence as opposed to any degree of confusion.

● (1430)

Where there is truth by implication in my hon. friend's statement is that the dollar is indeed affected by one substantial thing, the deficit. From the year of Confederation it took us 100 years to accumulate a net debt of \$18 billion, and in 15 years the Liberals took that debt from \$18 billion to \$190 billion and built a further \$120 billion into the system. That is the degree of profligacy and waste that has hurt Canada, and we are now working to rebuild.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: It could be falsitude. I am not sure what that means.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO
MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, does the Prime Minister agree with the Minister of Justice, as quoted in an important journal in Quebec today, that it would be politically suicidal for the Government to pursue the cuts necessary to meet the deficit reductions that the Minister of Finance has spoken about and, therefore, that plan of the Minister of Finance should be abandoned?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, he never said any such thing and that is a typical socialist trick of distortion and fabrication. People have had it up to their ears with you.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: You look at it.

Mr. Mulroney: It is not there.

[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INQUIRY WHEN O'FARRELL REPORT WILL BE GIVEN TO
RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES COMMISSION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister.

Yesterday, his Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was still refusing to send the O'Farrell Report to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission which is completing its investigation and, as I heard this morning, intends to report and publish its findings in April.

Could the Prime Minister give the House the assurance that the O'Farrell Report will be sent to the Commission in due time, in other words, now, so that it can consider the report's findings before publishing its own report in April?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the documentation will be submitted in due time, as appropriate.

REASONS FOR DELAY

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, what we must realize is that the investigation is drawing to a close, and that the appropriate time is now.

I would therefore ask the Prime Minister whether he could inform the House why his Government is dragging its feet on sending the O'Farrell Report to the Canadian Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. Why are we seeing this attitude which consists in obstructing the activities of a Commission that is conducting an investigation in the interests of Canadian consumers?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I assume the Minister will follow the usual procedure and process, and at the appropriate time, to borrow your expression, the report will be submitted to the parties concerned.

* * *

ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT
INTERVENTION

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

The National Committee for the Reduction of the Price of Gas which was set up recently in Montreal, has sent a telex to the Prime Minister, asking for an immediate reduction of six cents per litre in the price of gas at the pump. The price of gas