

## Oral Questions

## ENERGY

## OIL PIPELINE EXTENSION TO MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 to move a motion of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of the fact the Sarnia to Montreal oil pipeline application is now before the National Energy Board, and in view of the fact there already exists an oil pipeline from Sarnia to Toronto with the capability of being upgraded and extended to Montreal, thereby resulting in a financial saving and the avoiding of environmental damage, I would move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That this House instruct the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to reassess the proposed Sarnia-Montreal route.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimity and the motion cannot be put.

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## RAILWAY ACT

## AMENDMENT TO PERMIT RAILWAYS TO ISSUE HALF-FARE PASSENGER TICKETS TO SENIOR CITIZENS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-269, to amend the Railway Act (half-fare railway tickets for senior citizens).

**An hon. Member:** Explain.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill as indicated in the title is to amend the Railway Act to permit railway companies operating in Canada to issue half-fare passenger tickets to senior citizens.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

● (1130)

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## ENERGY

## GASOLINE—AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN PRICES EAST AND WEST OF OTTAWA VALLEY LINE

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to clarify very briefly the basis of the statements he and his officials made yesterday indicating that consumers west of the Ottawa Valley line will pay perhaps eight to ten cents a gallon more for gasoline and

[Mr. Speaker.]

those to the east may face an increase of four or five cents a gallon, whereas on Wednesday, following the conference with the provincial premiers, he indicated that the new arrangement would mean perhaps a seven cents a gallon increase in wholesale prices west of the Ottawa Valley line and that prices east of the Ottawa line should hold firm.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I did not indicate either the ten cent or five cent price increases with regard to feed-stock. I think the calculation would be eight cents and three cents. Of course, there is a question outstanding as to the calculation of the gathering charge in Alberta. That is yet to be settled. However, those are the levels we anticipate, eight cents or perhaps half a cent more and three cents or perhaps half a cent more.

**Mr. Stanfield:** The minister speaks of three cents east of the Ottawa line. Would that be the figure for Nova Scotia and Newfoundland as well or would their increase be greater in view of the greater transportation costs from the producing provinces?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, of course, use offshore oil. The increase east of the Ottawa Valley line would be three cents. The rounded figure for oil landed up to December 31 is \$6 rather than the \$6.50 figure that was discussed in the past. Since the price of crude will be going up by the difference between \$6 and perhaps \$7.15, that will represent about three to three and a half cents at the gas pump.

**Mr. Stanfield:** The minister indicated in a telex to the oil industry that they will be permitted to increase their selling prices on Monday next for reasons other than the increase in the cost of crude. Have any guidelines been established with regard to this arrangement, and has the government any mechanism in place with regard to justification of any such price increase before the price increase is put into effect by the companies?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, we will be seeking justification from the companies in due course for price increases of this kind. Proof will be required in relation to any price increases they make. We do not anticipate in effect scrutinizing them in advance. Any anticipated increase is estimated to be at the most about half a cent, if in fact the companies choose to take that.

## GASOLINE AND HOME HEATING OIL—AMOUNT OF PRICE INCREASE GOVERNMENT WILL ALLOW

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact there are 35 gallons in a barrel of oil, which means an increase of slightly less than three cents per gallon for every \$1 increase in the price of a barrel of oil, having in mind the minister's statement in answer to a question at the press conference on March 27, that the price increase for gasoline west of the Ottawa Valley would not be more than seven cents per gallon, and in view of the fact the oil industry is now talking about 10 cents per gallon west of the Ottawa Valley and five cents per gallon east of the