

intend to pursue those consultations, which are of a very serious nature, to a very serious extent.

Mr. Phillips: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I was really asking if the minister had these plans for 1980, and has his department, for example, examined the regional impact of any such substantial increase in the price of oil?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is that we are not putting forward that particular price increase regime. The answer to the second part is yes.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who a little while ago announced he would release by the end of September an inspirational and dramatic energy blueprint for the 1980s, to quote his words. We are in October, and there is no sign of that blueprint.

● (1430)

My question to the minister is: Are we to believe press reports to the effect that no blueprint is in sight, and that inspiration and drama have gone the same way as so many other Tory promises, that is to say, in those famous trashcans to which the late Right Hon. member for Prince Albert used to refer?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the hon. member that I intend to work as hard as possible in order to make progress with respect to our objective of energy self-sufficiency. I do not take the task lightly.

Mr. Chrétien: Ready for 1990?

PRICE OF OIL—REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO ASSIST INDUSTRY AND PRODUCERS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Given the reports that the government wants to increase domestic oil prices by \$4 to \$6 a barrel by the end of next year, and that such a move would result in 2 per cent to 4 per cent additional inflation, another 100,000 unemployed and about 1 per cent less economic growth, at a time when the economy is already not healthy, will the Prime Minister postpone such an increase, review the whole matter and ensure that proper compensatory measures to assist industry and consumers are put in place first before saddling the nation with the double-digit inflation that these prices will bring?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, naturally, any part of any energy package that we negotiate with the provinces will include measures to deal with the serious impact that energy price increases might have, particularly in some parts of the country with lower income Canadians. It is clearly part of the policy and determination of this government that we will not continue with policies that will

leave the people of Canada exposed to a situation where we are forced forever to rely upon unstable foreign sources of oil.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Symes: Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, I would take it that we are blindly pursuing a path of escalating prices and economic disaster without proper measures.

Since resolving the energy price question first before any budget is imperative, surely if the budget is to have any meaning in terms of these aids to industry and consumers that the Prime Minister is so concerned about, and in view of the most recent rebuff the Prime Minister had from the Premier of Alberta concerning energy price increases, is he prepared to act unilaterally to implement a new domestic oil price prior to the November budget?

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, certainly not prior to the November budget. The hon. member will know that there is more to budgets than energy policy.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS OF CROWN CORPORATIONS TO PRO-CANADA

Mr. Fabien Roy (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In the Speech from the Throne, it was announced yesterday:

To make federalism work, it is essential to change the attitudes of the past—

More specifically, again I quote:

—and the federal government must set the example. Accordingly, it is a primary goal of my government to bring about a new era in federal-provincial relations.

We were advised throughout the year that big Crown corporations made generous contributions to Pro-Canada with the blessing of the former government. I should like to ask the Prime Minister if that attitude will be maintained or whether the government intends to alter it.

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): We can see he will think about it.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I had to check with my colleague the Minister of Supply and Services. Indeed I do so not merely with regard to policies, but also concerning the French vocabulary.

Mr. Speaker, we are now in the process of reconsidering the practice followed by the former government with regard to the matter the hon. member has brought up.

Mr. Roy (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister also aware that a number of Crown corporations, of which Canadian National and the Canadian Development Corporation are