

States, particularly as it relates to the energy sector, they will realize just how much we need this agreement to guarantee supplies in our own country.

Second, Mr. Speaker, nothing whatsoever in the agreement leads the Canadian Government to believe that constitutional amendments will be required. Therefore the powers vested in the provinces under the Canadian Constitution are still the same.

[English]

EFFECT ON PROVINCIAL POWERS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a set of questions and answers prepared by officials in the Minister's own Department—to whom they were sent I am not sure—dealing with the same question, and the answer is entirely different. The proposed question in the notes being distributed is:

Can provinces continue to price their energy resources differentially intra-provincially versus extra—provincially (including exports)?

That is the question being asked. The wording of the suggested answer is interesting:

The official answer to this—is:

"It is our expectation that the provinces will not take actions incompatible with the spirit and intent of the free trade agreement".

It does not answer the question at all. It then goes on, interestingly, to say the following: "The question of provincial compliance with this agreement is a very sensitive issue which the Prime Minister wants to deal with himself".

Some Hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I want to understand. Will the Minister tell us what is going on? He has just given us one answer today in the House that is at variance with what is being said by someone in his Department who is preparing notes, and the suggestion is that the Prime Minister is going to deal with it. Are provincial powers changed in energy or are they not? Answer it.

Mr. Shields: No. It is that simple.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the leader of the socialist party should realize that there are thousands of public servants in my Department and that I do not know the opinion of each and everyone of them. Second, since he was kind enough to refer to a document, I wish he would table it in the House. I am not personally familiar with it and I should like to study it.

[English]

PROVINCIAL COMPLIANCE WITH AGREEMENT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the question is not necessarily whether the Minister has read the

text. What I am interested in is knowing what the truth is. Time after time the Prime Minister of Canada says one thing, the Minister says something else, and we find out the truth is somewhere else. That has got to change.

The clear assertion, which is in the Minister's document, not mine, is that the question of provincial compliance with the agreement is a very sensitive issue with which the Prime Minister wants to deal himself. That comes from the Minister's Department. I repeat, it is not mine.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Why don't you table it?

Mr. Broadbent: Is the Minister telling us that his Department does not know the answer as to whether provincial powers are changing or not?

Some Hon. Members: Table it.

Mr. Broadbent: Or is he going to repeat that the powers remain the same? What we want is some consistency and we want some truth on this side of the House.

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, not being familiar with the contents of the document to which the leader of the socialist party is referring, I can hardly respond. It is even difficult to vouch for its authenticity. I believe the best way to proceed would be to table it. I will examine it and tell him whether or not, first the document is authentic and, second what is the value of the suggestions.

[English]

PROVINCES' POWERS TO SET PRICES

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): I would be happy to do so if there is agreement to table the document. It is normal that Ministers do that, but I would be happy to do that and send him a copy.

But, setting the document aside, I want the Minister to answer the question. Considering that in the elements of the document he has, the "Elements of the Agreement", it suggests that the Americans will have access to our energy at prices that cannot be at any variance with prices in Canada, considering that is what the Americans believe as well, and considering that that does change the provincial Governments' rights as they exist now, why is the Minister trying to pretend that these powers are not changing? And why is it left to the Prime Minister to deal with this "sensitive" matter?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, since the leader of the socialist party is again referring to a document in his preliminary remarks, a document I do not have, I cannot answer this question because I do not know on what the Hon. Member's question is based.