

*Oral Questions*

## INQUIRY RESPECTING OIL PRICING ARRANGEMENT

**Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw):** Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. In an August 2 story in the now defunct *Ottawa Journal*, the Minister of Finance said that a budget is virtually impossible without an oil pricing agreement. In this story the minister said he could not make up a budget without knowing how much money will be coming into the federal coffers, and that without a firm agreement on pricing he cannot be certain about federal income.

Given that no such agreement has been reached, can the minister tell the House what pricing arrangement will be incorporated in the minister's budget tomorrow night?

● (1420)

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Not yet, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Neil:** Madam Speaker, the Saskatchewan Power Corporation is presently involved in a lawsuit with TransCanada PipeLines in the Supreme Court of Canada in which the constitutionality of the Petroleum Administration Act is in question. Will the Minister of Finance give us his undertaking that this government will not use the Petroleum Administration Act to impose an oil pricing regime while the question of its legality is subjudice?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Madam Speaker, I will give the hon. member's representation careful consideration.

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## INDUSTRY

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the hard-working Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who I see is busy at his correspondence. During the campaign of recent vintage, the minister promised that the establishment of an industrial strategy would be the top economic priority of the government, no doubt a promise made just after a Goldfarb poll came in. The minister himself placed before the cabinet last summer a 71-page confidential economic strategy document, a copy of which I have here.

**Mr. Nielsen:** More consultations.

**Mr. Andre:** You are on the mailing list.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Considering recent statements by the Minister of State for Economic Development, who resides in the other place, have made it clear that he wants to do everything possible to emasculate an industrial strategy, would the minister tell the House whether his program has been approved yet by cabinet or whether, in contrast, the appointed senator in the other place who serves as economic development minister has won the support of cabinet?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, my efforts are making very good progress in terms of cabinet consideration. I think the hon. member will see the results of this work reflected in government announcements over the coming months, and the Minister of State for Economic Development will now be happy to confirm that what he actually said in his speech is in fact quite in tune with and complementary to the efforts which I am undertaking.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, I just happen to have with me a copy of what the senator said in the other place. The senator in the other place when he was speaking to a business group said the following:

You make the major decisions . . . when the government formulates policy it is to support your enterprises.

That statement comes from the minister in the other place. The minister to whom I put the question is on record as saying that what the government needs is imaginative government leadership, a dynamic new approach promoting industrial development, led by the government. My question to the minister is simply this: I want to know whether the government is wedded to the traditional passive approach, where the government will follow the private sector, or whether it is going to adopt what the minister says is necessary, and that is a government led industrial strategy which has worked so well in other industrial countries? The government cannot have it both ways.

**Mr. Gray:** Madam Speaker, this government's Speech from the Throne which opened this session of Parliament spoke of this government's efforts in the area of—and I think I can recall the exact words—a vigorous industrial policy. This is this government's commitment and this will be its achievement.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** Madam Speaker, the government is currently running a \$17 billion deficit. It has a growth record which is the worst in 26 years. There are more than one million Canadians unemployed. The obvious requirement is a vigorous industrial strategy led by the government. Will the minister assure us this much at least: if he does not get what he promised the people of Canada in the election, he will promise once again to submit his resignation?

**Mr. Gray:** Madam Speaker, I will promise this: in the next election the NDP in my area and across the country will get an even sounder thrashing than it did in the last one as a result of the public belief that our efforts, our potential and our reality of achievement will be far greater than that of the NDP or any opposition party.

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