Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member was alluding to last Friday, March 21. I answered a number of questions, and here is my reply—

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I indicated on March 3 and March 11 in the House and in other circumstances to the press that at an appropriate time, at or about the end of the fiscal year, and in appropriate fashion the Government—

What I said on Friday still applies.

ENERGY

WORLD OIL PRICES-IMPACT ON ALBERTA

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister will know that the OPEC meeting in Geneva has now broken up in disarray with no agreement having been reached. She is also aware of the extremely desperate economic situation in the Province of Alberta. Oil prices today at \$12.15 a barrel simply demand that the situation will get worse. Is the Minister prepared to stop monitoring the situation and start doing something now to preserve the jobs of ordinary Albertans?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I understand the Hon. Member's colleague is in Alberta offering a floor price as the NDP's solution to the dilemma faced by the industry. I wish he would elaborate how having an artificial price for oil will help all Canadians who, on balance, benefit from lower energy prices.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that the situation in Alberta is getting extremely desperate. What do she and her Government plan to do to bring some relief to the troubled oil industry in western Canada and to bring some security to the Province of Alberta? What is she doing? What does she have against Albertans?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I certainly have nothing against Albertans. Clearly they do not think that I do, since they say that, on behalf of the Government, I have brought in the best energy policy ever introduced.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

LLOYDMINSTER HEAVY OIL UPGRADER PROJECT

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Are talks still ongoing regarding the Husky upgrader? Will the federal Government participate in the building of the Husky upgrader at Lloydminster?

Oral Questions

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that is a subject currently under discussion between the federal Government and the provinces.

Mr. Nunziata: Do you guys believe in commitment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry.

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would like to see if the Government will clarify its position on the important question of trade with respect to the Auto Pact. My question is for the Prime Minister. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said that he sees no reason to negotiate, while the trade representative for the United States said that everything is on the table. Will the Prime Minister tell us whether or not in his meetings last week with President Reagan he clearly expressed that, as far as Canada is concerned, the Auto-Pact will not be part of the negotiations? If so, did the President agree with that assertion?

• (1440)

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have two responses.

Mr. Crosbie: He's getting coached by Ed there, look.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The first is that the question did not need to come up because the position of Canada is well known. The second is that I am sure that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry—

Mr. Crosbie: The Oshawa wizard.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —will welcome as much as I do the conversion of the Leader of the New Democratic Party, who has now said that he is in favour of a trading arrangement with the United States.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

CANADIAN POSITION

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to ask the Secretary of State if he has now changed his position. He stated that he would like to apply the moral of the Auto Pact to other sectors. Does that mean that the goal of the Government of Canada in these negotiations is to have a managed trade arrangement in various sectors, with guarantees and safeguards on both sides of the border? Is that the trade goal the Government is now pursuing?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!