

## S.O. 21

Deficit reduction and sound fiscal management are the first steps toward economic recovery, and management of our energy resources is of major import in that recovery.

I encourage the Minister of Finance to continue the present subsidies for conversion of automobiles to alternate fuels. In my riding of Welland propane fuel is used exclusively by the Niagara Regional Police Force in their police cruisers. In the City of Welland 90 per cent of all taxi cabs have been converted to propane as an alternate fuel. Many of my constituents have converted their private automobiles, and I personally have 14 vehicles in my family business on propane. The savings in all cases are in excess of 40 per cent. Propane is readily available to the public at an increasing number of service stations in my riding of Welland and through southern Ontario. It is proving to be a reliable and economic source of fuel.

I would therefore invite Members of the House to encourage their constituents to examine the benefits of alternate fuels such as propane and natural gas, and would encourage the Minister of Finance to continue and, when appropriate, to increase the subsidies for alternate fuel conversions.

This action would increase the opportunity for an increasing—

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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● (1110)

[Translation]

## TRANSPORT

## PAY BOOTH ON CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE, MONTREAL—STUDY OF IMMEDIATE ABOLITION URGED

**Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Transport must be aware that the Quebec government has abolished highway tolls; he must be aware that the abolition puts an end to unfair treatment in the regions of the south shore and the Eastern Townships; finally, he must be aware as well that this demonstration of equity towards autoroute users is not yet generalized since motorists still pay tolls to cross the Champlain bridge. I am convinced that the Progressive Conservative Members from the south shore and Eastern Townships ridings will echo my representations urging the Minister to consider the possibility of dismantling immediately the Champlain bridge toll booths which constitute discrimination towards and cause delays to motorists travelling to the south shore and the Eastern Townships.

## ENERGY

## FUEL PRICE INCREASE—EFFECT ON LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION OF QUEBEC

**Mr. Clément M. Côté (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Mr. Speaker, like most Canadians, the people in my riding applauded the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) on our country's economy and finances and the direction the present Government intends to take. One of the Government's priorities is a more equitable redeployment of public funds, which will be done through consultation on ways of regulating, for instance, the price of oil. In the past, distant areas like mine have often been neglected. We believe it is time for a change. As the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean, it is my duty to ensure that this new approach has no adverse effects on the people of my riding. There is certainly a way to meet the needs of Canadians while taking into account the regional dimensions of Lac-Saint-Jean.

For instance, the increase in the price of fuel is a distinct disadvantage. Almost everything is shipped in and out of this area by road transport, and transportation costs are already 25 per cent higher because of weather and road conditions. I would appreciate receiving your suggestions in the next few weeks, so that I can then express the views of all my constituents.

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[English]

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS

## IMPACT OF ECONOMIC STATEMENT

**Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) has made flagrantly contradictory statements on the subject of arts cut-backs. Neither he nor the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) are in the House today to answer to them.

During the course of the election campaign the position of the Party was very clear—no arts cut-backs in real terms and consultation with the arts and cultural community. Further, in opposition, the Conservatives were very strong on the arm's length relationship between government and the cultural agencies. Yet the economic statement broke all three promises.

To complicate matters, the Minister said in answer to a question yesterday that he would ensure that there would be increased funding for creative and productive work in the arts, yet he could not assure the House that cut-backs would not be confined to administration because of the arm's length relationship. However, a story in today's *Globe and Mail* says that there will be further interference with our major cultural agency, the CBC.

Where do we stand? Nobody knows. I suggest that the way out of this incredible muddle is for the Minister to go back to square one with no arts cut-backs, consultation with the arts