

*Oral Questions*

on the council, not because they are Liberals, Conservatives or whatever, not because their first loyalty is to the government—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, order.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, in all her questions the hon. lady suggested that somehow the politics of the members of the council influence their decisions. First, I do not know how she establishes the politics of those who voted on one side or the other. She said that the ten are presumably Conservatives. I do not have the names, does she? Does she know the politics of the members? It seems to me that if she does—and the hon. lady said she does—she is precisely contributing, as the other questions today, to destroying the credibility of this council by suggesting they acted politically. We do not believe it, but if hon. members continue to say it, of course its credibility will be destroyed.

I do not think anyone will find a way to name members of the council who have no politics at all. What will we do then? Should we ask their politics before accepting their appointment or count their politics every time they vote? It seems to me the parties opposite, in the name of protecting women, are in the process of destroying democracy.

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

**Miss Jewett:** Madam Speaker, since most of the women of Canada in fact question the credibility of the council—

**Mr. Trudeau:** How do you know that?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss Jewett:** I wonder because—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Miss Jewett:** Since the majority do—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I wish the hon. member would ask questions and not make so many statements. I have allowed a few but my patience is coming to an end. Questions, please.

**Miss Jewett:** Madam Speaker, I have one final question for the Prime Minister. Would he, as he has already been requested, seriously consider finding among his ranks someone who is genuinely concerned about women and the independence of the advisory council to be the minister responsible for the status of women?

**Mr. Nielsen:** A hopeless task.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I had begun to answer that question earlier when the opposition howled with anguish.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** I will continue the list of achievements of the minister since the month of April, 1980.

**Some hon. Members:** Order, order.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Apart from all these things, we established a task force to look at the situation of foreign domestics. We have put forward—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** A point of order, Madam Speaker.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** He is entitled to answer.

**Madam Speaker:** Could I ask the Right Hon. Prime Minister to answer his questions briefly?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Madam Speaker. The answer is no.

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**THE BUDGET**

## ALLEGED INCONSISTENCIES IN TAXATION POLICY

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance; it concerns the thrust of the tax policy in his recent budget. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources on many occasions said that self-sufficiency is the number one objective of the government in energy policy. If that is the case, surely the policy should be to encourage production and discourage consumption.

In view of the fact that the policy set out in the budget of the Minister of Finance is clearly to discourage production through the 8 per cent tax and the excise tax on natural gas, and that clearly consumers are not sensing any comparable strong action to promote conservation, how does the minister explain this inconsistency in his policy with the objectives of the program?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the hon. member's question.

**Mr. Wilson:** Madam Speaker, it is clearly there. If the power of logic on the part of the Minister of Finance is not any better than that, I hesitate to guess what the next budget will indicate.

Canadianization is another one of the key objectives of the government in the national energy policy. Surely the tax policy should try to impact less upon Canadian-owned companies in the industry. Because Canadian-owned companies are primarily in the production area, the impact upon them is much greater than it is upon multinationals engaged not only in production but refining, petro-chemicals and marketing. Would the minister explain again the inconsistency in his tax policy with the objectives of the National Energy Program?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Madam Speaker, the hon. member says again that there are inconsistencies. He makes his own