

● (1425)

[Translation]

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my answer is exactly the same. As far as I know, there is no reference to anything the Minister might have said to that effect. On the contrary, the Minister of Justice never made such a statement. So I do not think you should build your argument on this because it is construed out of something that does not exist, which means that the premise of your question is false.

[English]

REQUEST FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Minister of Justice will get up at the end of Question Period and correct what the Prime Minister says is an error. It was he who had the interview. It was he who was quoted. It is the Government of Canada that is confused.

Would the Prime Minister himself, or the Minister of Finance, undertake to have a debate in this House within the next two days on the over-all economic direction of this confused Government?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I may be wrong, and I will take another look at it, but with regard to the statement just attributed by the Leader of the New Democratic Party to the Minister of Finance—

Some Hon. Members: The Minister of Justice.

Mr. Mulroney: I find no such statement.

Mr. Fulton: Confused again.

Mr. Mulroney: The allegation is absolutely false.

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ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister has said many times that Governments do not set the price of gasoline, that markets do. Perhaps the Minister can explain why the markets are not working and why Petro-Canada's wholesale price for gasoline is 7 cents a litre higher than the New York Harbour wholesale price.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, in view of the Hon. Member's gloom and doom in the past about drilling activity, I thought he was rising to ask me about the new well that Shell is spudding off Sable Island and the other one that will follow later.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Miss Carney: He is also, Mr. Speaker, a member of a Party that had a rigid, regulated energy policy which increased the price of gasoline by 80 per cent, from 32 to 50 cents a litre. I attempted to explain to him that our energy policy will ensure that consumers do get the benefits of decreases in gasoline prices. I can assure him that I have communicated with industry executives to ensure that consumers get the full and fair benefit of the price declines which are in the system now.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, it is just the opposite. The policy of the former Liberal Government kept the prices of gasoline down.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms. Copps: Right on!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Axworthy: That shows how smart you guys are.

Ms. Copps: That's what he gets for telling the truth. The truth hurts.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Read the McMillan Binch newsletter.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the Hon. Member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton come to order please? Question, please.

Mr. MacLellan: Why does the Minister not just admit that Petro-Canada is keeping the price high so it can increase its profits to get the best return possible on its share issue? Why does the Minister not just admit that?

Ms. Copps: Tell the truth.

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am so bedazzled by the Member's statement that an increase of \$1.20 a gallon on gasoline under the Liberal administration is a decrease in price.

Mr. Axworthy: It was below world price.

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THE ECONOMY

EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR—REQUEST FOR ECONOMIC STATEMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister. I am sure he will agree that part of the reason our dollar is suffering so in international money markets is because there is confusion about what exactly the Government's economic policy is, and