

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Clark:** Which minister?

**Mr. Bockstael:** The Minister of Transport will be bringing recommendations to cabinet for its authorization or approval.

## MINISTER'S STATEMENT

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Could he enlighten the House on whose behalf the Minister of Agriculture was speaking when he stated the following in a recent speech:

The debate on the Crowsnest pass freight rate has gone on for too long and I hope it can be resolved quickly.

—preferably by August 1? For whom was the Minister of Agriculture speaking, if the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board was stating government policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** He was speaking for all of us, Madam Speaker.

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## AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHRYSLER CANADA

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, perhaps I could direct my initial question to the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Could that minister indicate when we will hear a statement with respect to the current negotiations involving Chrysler Canada Ltd.? Will that statement be made first in the House? May we be assured that the press or a press conference will not be arranged first, rather than coming to the House and making a statement in the House?

**Mr. Nielsen:** The question is for you, Lapointe.

**Mr. Epp:** Just say "yes".

[Translation]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses)):** Madam Speaker, I apologize to the House and to the hon. member. I did not hear the thrust of his question.

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, I should like to repeat the main thrust of my question to the minister. It involves the current negotiations with respect to Chrysler Canada. When may we have a statement in the House concerning the minister's determination to date with respect to those negotiations? May we be assured that statement in fact will be made in the House and will not be made first to the press, or even in a press conference?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is now engaged in ongoing consultations with spokesmen for the industry and the United Auto Workers, and the government will soon be in a position to make a decision in that respect.

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, in view of the minister's non-answer, I feel I have no alternative but to go to the Prime Minister. Would he indicate whether in fact there has been an agreement in principle between the Government of Canada and Chrysler Canada with respect to the current guarantee and other loan arrangements upon which agreement may be reached?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I apologize. I have not been following the exchange. There have been discussions between the government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, but as far as I know no final decision has been taken.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Wake up. This is question period.

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## ENERGY

## IMPACT OF PRICE ON CONSERVATION MEASURES AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIES

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It relates to the conservation programs of the federal government. The minister will know that the usage of CHIP has increased by a factor of about four in the last year or so and that there has been a great deal of interest in oil furnace conversions and other federal government conservation programs. Could the minister tell the House what impact he feels energy pricing has had on conservation, or whether people are now responding to conservation because they have a fear about energy supplies?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, it is extremely difficult to give an answer to the question raised by the hon. member. It is of a nature which concerns consumer habits. It is interesting to see that petroleum consumption in Canada last year went down by about 3 per cent. It is the view of the government that it would be completely irresponsible to rely essentially or mainly on increases in price alone to reduce consumption. Our position and our view is that people are interested in new and alternate forms of energy and that the government programs to increase conservation, to substitute oil for gas, and to insulate their homes better, are still the best means of ensuring oil self-sufficiency in the country, rather than socking it to the consumers by much higher prices.

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