

### Oral Questions

1985: "It is Conservative policy to maintain Petro-Canada."

Will the Prime Minister keep his promise to maintain Petro-Canada, or is this yet one more broken promise to the Canadian people?

**Hon. John McDermid (Minister of State (Privatization and Regulatory Affairs)):** Mr. Speaker, there has been no decision on Petro-Canada yet. If a decision is made by Cabinet it will be announced in the usual manner.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has outlined to the Toronto *Star* a complete plan for the privatization of Petro-Canada.

Of course, as we have learned in this House, this is simply a kite being flown but I suspect it is in fact a plan being set out.

[Translation]

I have a question for the Minister of State responsible for privatization. The minister says that Canadian control in the oil sector is growing rapidly. Doesn't he know that his own government's statistics indicate Canadian control is now 3 to 5 per cent less than it was in 1985, when it was 43 per cent? Why is the minister prepared to reduce Canadian control even further in the oil industry?

[English]

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Speaker, the minister is not, in fact, reducing Canadian control of the oil industry.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, in the past we have heard from this government that it did not plan to sell Air Canada. We heard that it planned to support VIA Rail. Now we hear it saying, "Of course, there is no plan to sell Petro-Canada," when in fact, the minister has outlined details to the newspaper saying that these are the ways in which it will be done. Clearly a kite is being flown in this case.

I ask the Prime Minister, why won't the Conservatives take no for an answer? Why won't they realize that the "no" which was given to the previous Conservative government is a no which deserves to be maintained for the future of this country and for the future of all of us in this country?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in reports of the speech that the hon. gentleman made to his convention. I didn't see it but it was reported to me. He spoke very glowingly

of the dramatic and dynamic changes taken within the economies of eastern Europe.

One of the principal actions that they are taking in eastern Europe is the privatization of all kinds of industries to get the state off their back.

\* \* \*

• (1140)

[Translation]

### STATUS OF WOMEN

**Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville):** My question is directed to the Prime Minister. We all know that a senseless killing occurred this week. A particularly disturbing aspect of this tragedy is that the killer singled out women as his victims. This fact has heightened the growing fear women have of going out at night.

I would like to know when—and no pretty speeches please!—the government intends to do something about the increase in violent acts against 52 per cent of our population.

[English]

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, because this has been such an active file for us over the last three years we have taken some action and will be continuing more.

There is \$40 million going toward the building of shelters, toward education, toward developing more options. This is a problem for all of society and not just for government, and this government has taken the lead in helping to protect women.

You may recall as well that in our last session we did introduce a bill having to do with pornography which I think is another contributing factor and the kind of thing on which we want to continue to take action.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maheu:** Mr. Speaker, we were all deeply moved by the tragedy in Montreal. I would like the Prime Minister to answer the following question.

Our urban centres are fast becoming centres of aggression and violence against individuals, and especially against women. My question is as follows: Will the government start taking the problem of urban violence seriously and acknowledge that this problem has grown beyond the ability of municipal and provincial authorities