

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Those were his words, Madam Speaker, and I ask the hon. member to check *Hansard* if his brains are not constantly in the area that he suggested somebody else's nose is.

Mr. Crosbie: It is crowded there.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: At any rate, I fail to see how the hon. member can suggest in his second question that we are only concerned with eastern Canada and Quebec, because the amendments that I have suggested to the Leader of the New Democratic Party that we would be prepared to accept, providing the concept of the Canadian union were provided for, was an amendment precisely on the subjects and in the area demanded by the three westernmost premiers, not only during this last summer and fall, but as far back as October, 1978.

● (1430)

Mr. Clark: That, too, is misleading.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**OIL COMPANY PROFITS—REQUEST FOR ROLLBACK**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, it will be interesting, when our amendment on resources is moved which will give to the people of Newfoundland substantial control over their hydro and more than \$600 million to the people of Alberta—

Mr. Clark: Defend yourself, Ed.

Mr. Broadbent —to see if the Tories vote for or against it. It will be interesting.

An hon. Member: Go on over.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: Never have I heard such rubbish in all my days.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order. Order, please. All of this will only shorten the time that hon. members have to ask questions.

Mr. Trudeau: No respect for Parliament.

Madam Speaker: I would ask the House to refrain from applauding. We are having applause at every minute and moment every time someone speaks. The hon. member for Oshawa.

Mr. Broadbent: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a question for the Prime Minister—

An hon. Member: Ask him in caucus.

Mr. Broadbent —who has just indicated that he is interested in economic affairs. He will have a chance to demonstrate that now. Given that last year the multinational oil companies in Canada—

Mr. Clark: Bring that up in caucus.

Mr. Broadbent —increased their profits by \$5 billion and today figures came out which show their profits are up for the big five by fully another 65 per cent, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he is prepared now to illustrate in demonstrative form his expressed concern about the economy by giving to the petroleum monitoring agency the power to roll back such profits and protect the Canadian consumer?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, my simple answer, of course, is that the Government of Canada has no such power; therefore we could not delegate it to any agency created by the federal government. Under the constitution we cannot roll back profits, as the hon. member suggests, just by a decree of the federal Parliament.

As concerns the profits of these companies, the hon. member is aware of the provisions that this government brought in, ensuring that these profits would be reinvested in Canada in further exploration and development, if indeed the companies wanted to escape certain tax provisions.

Mr. Epp: Is that part of the deal?

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, I would suggest to the Prime Minister that he check the authority that he used to bring in wage and price controls a few years ago and apply it to the oil industry. It fits.

Mr. Clark: Write him a letter, Ed. Write him a letter.

Mr. Broadbent: Considering the answer that the Prime Minister just gave, I should like to ask him this direct—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: Take it up in caucus.

Mr. Broadbent: Don't go delirious down there. During the 1980 election campaign he said—

Mr. Clark: "Nineteen" election campaign? Were you there with him, Ed?

Mr. Broadbent: —he said in a speech in Sault Ste. Marie, and I quote as follows:

—several multinationals operating in Canada have profits so large that they're shifting hefty sums out of the country rather than reinvesting in energy.

That is something that the Tories permitted for years, of course. In view of the Prime Minister's own admission on the misuse of these profits, which was subsequently confirmed by another government report this summer, I should like to ask the Prime Minister what he is prepared to do to stop the shift