

be helpful both to the minister and to the Senate. Senator Manning has an item on the Order Paper, which is No. 6, having to do with the national energy policy, and that comes close to the series of questions I asked the minister. It might be a useful device for ministers in the Senate to be able to use debates of that kind. Perhaps this would be a good vehicle to deal with that issue. The minister might be able to range considerably farther than the details of the questions I asked. I make that only as a suggestion.

**Senator de Cotret:** Thank you very much. I will accept it as such.

## THE BUDGET

### DEFINITION OF SMALL BUSINESS

**Senator Hays:** Honourable senators, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has there been any change in the definition of small business as a result of the budget last night? How do you define "small business"?

**Senator de Cotret:** To my knowledge there has been no change in the definition of "small business." I will be happy to provide the senator with the definition of "small business" for tax purposes.

**Senator Lang:** The wife is now included as an employee.

**Senator Hays:** Thank you.

### DELAYED ANSWERS

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Are there delayed answers?

**Senator Flynn:** Yes, I have several, honourable senators. Before I give them, may I say that it has occurred to me that when answers are of a technical nature and are fairly lengthy it might be appropriate to place them on the record rather than to read them. I think that would be especially appropriate when the Question Period has lasted for as long as it has today.

I wonder if those honourable senators who have asked the questions would be satisfied if I were to ask for leave to have the answers printed at this point in *Hansard*. I have here, for example, the answers to two questions raised by Senator McElman, one regarding oil product supplies for the Atlantic provinces and the other regarding increases in storage capacity for oil in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. These answers are rather technical.

If honourable senators want me to read the replies I have received, I do not mind, but otherwise I would ask that the replies be printed at this point in *Hansard* and that if honourable senators have any supplementary questions they put them tomorrow.

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it the request of the Leader of the Government that these answers be printed as appendices to today's *Debates*?

[Senator Connolly.]

**Senator Flynn:** No. I would like to have them go in at this point.

**Senator Smith (Colchester):** He wants them to go in the record at this point.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** My understanding, then, is that rather than being printed as appendices the answers will be printed as if they had been read by the senator. Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.

*Senator Flynn's delayed answers follow:*

## ENERGY

### ATLANTIC PROVINCES—SECURITY OF FUEL OIL SUPPLIES

**Senator Flynn:** Senator McElman asked what action the government is taking to ensure that heating oil supplies would be available to customers of Gulf. In response I would like to say that the government has been in contact with representatives from Gulf Canada concerning that company's crude oil supplies for its Point Tupper refinery. Its next cargo of Iranian crude, which is still on its way and should arrive in mid-December, will permit Gulf to run its refinery until February. Gulf hopes to replace the lost Iranian crude with supplies from Kuwait, as it did during the Iranian curtailment last winter.

The government is concerned about the current oil supply situation. However, it believes that the oil companies will take the necessary actions to ensure adequate supplies for their customers. A number of companies have already indicated an intention to import higher-cost cargoes of heating oil to meet supply requirements.

To further assist in bringing demand more closely in line with prospective supplies, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has telexed his provincial colleagues requesting that they consider what accelerated conservation measures could be immediately implemented to reduce consumption this winter. This subject will be discussed at the upcoming First Ministers' Conference.

Finally, while the government does not foresee a supply situation requiring mandatory allocation or rationing, the members of the Energy Supplies Allocation Board will be in place this month. Should there be a serious supply shortage, this board will ensure that available offshore and domestic oil is allocated on a reasonable and equitable basis to all regions including the Atlantic provinces.

### ATLANTIC PROVINCES AND QUEBEC—STORAGE CAPACITY FOR CRUDE AND REFINED OIL

**Senator Flynn:** Senator McElman asked last week about oil storage capacity. In reply I would indicate that the last significant increase in oil shortage capacity occurred with the expansion of the Irving Refinery in 1976. At that time approximately 1.7 million barrels of crude oil storage was added at the Irving installation in Saint John, New Brunswick.