

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Lalonde:** These, Madam Speaker, have been achieved under the National Energy Program. I would like to remind my hon. friends that a study by the United States Department of Commerce came out in the last few days indicating that the United States affiliates in Canada in the energy field are going to increase their expenditures in 1982 compared to 1981 by 28 per cent, while they are going to increase their expenditures in other countries only by 18 per cent. That is the kind of show of confidence that has arisen out of the National Energy Program and the agreements we have had with the province of Alberta, the province of Saskatchewan, and the province of British Columbia.

• (1500)

I suggest to my hon. friend that he look at reality and at comments in today's press saying that the industry expects a very bullish year and a very, very active year in 1983.

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

**Mr. Andre:** Then I wonder why people in Detroit can buy gasoline cheaper than people in Windsor.

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

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION

**Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre):** Madam Speaker, as a result of the National Energy Program half of this country's petroleum drilling industry has left the country. Thousands of people have been laid off. Dozens of companies have gone into bankruptcy and receivership. Three hundred thousand barrels of Canadian production per day are shut in. Seventeen billion dollars of capital has fled the country as the result of the National Energy Program.

The government of Alberta has recognized something is wrong. It has moved to take action. It has taken some important initiatives. Will the federal government act as responsibly? That is the simple question.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, the government of Alberta has acted in response to a commitment it gave when we reached an agreement last September. The government of Alberta agreed to review its royalties. Alberta recognized that something had to be done with respect to its royalties, and I expect the government of Saskatchewan and the government of British Columbia will follow soon. What the government of Alberta has done had been to honour the commitment it made under the agreement.

In the meantime, we have gone even further than required under the agreement with regard to taking measures to reduce the amount of shut-in oil in Alberta and Saskatchewan by expanding the price for new oil to categories of oil which were not covered under the agreement. These are things we have done, and they have meant significant benefit to the industry. I invite my hon. friend to look at them.

## PETITION

MR. KEEPER—GLOBAL QUOTAS ON LEATHER FOOTWEAR

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the two hundred and eighteenth report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petition presented by the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper) on Thursday, April 8, 1982, and finds that the petition does not meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Third report of Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development—Mr. Penner.

[Editor's Note: For text of the above Report see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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## PETITION

MR. HARGRAVE—NATURAL GAS TAXATION POLICY

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Madam Speaker, it is my privilege and, indeed, my duty to present a formal petition on behalf of my constituents. The purpose of this petition, signed by 12,689 citizens of my home city of Medicine Hat and Redcliff, is to indicate to the government the crisis now being experienced by every home owner and resident due to the natural gas taxation policy of the National Energy Program. The nature and purpose of this petition is to demand that the government's budgetary policy respecting these punitive natural gas taxes be reassessed in view of the ensuing hardships and illegality of these natural gas taxes.

My constituency petitioners hope and pray, Madam Speaker, that you will find their petition in order and that you will note the urgency and desperation of their plea due to more than a 100 per cent increase in their utility bills, and that you will allow discussion and referral to committee at the earliest possible date.

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## QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 3,259, 3,621 and 4,100.