

may do away with it. Today we end the era of unfairness in the PGRT. I can assure you we will continue to ferret out in all areas of Government unfairness and inequity and do away with those as well.

● (1820)

I join with my colleagues in being pleased to have this opportunity and I look forward to the speedy passage and the end of this infamous and unfair intrusion on an industry which is an important, integral part of the Canadian economy, and particularly to the western economy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: On questions and comments, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan (Mr. Angus).

Mr. Angus: My question is directed to the Hon. Member. One of the things that supposedly was promised was a better deal for consumers. Today in Toronto I appeared at the Ontario Energy Board hearings into an application by one of the Ontario natural gas distribution companies. Part of the discussion today—I cannot say evidence because there was debate about whether it could be considered as evidence—was the fact that TransCanada PipeLines and ICG Ontario Limited had entered into an agreement on rates that are confidential which would give to major Ontario consumers—big companies, in other words—very cheap rates.

Given the scenario where one group in Ontario is going to get preferential rates for natural gas, primarily Alberta natural gas, at the expense of the ordinary consumer, does the Member feel that this was the goal of her Government's policies as it related to deregulation of the energy industry in western Canada?

Mrs. Collins: I thank the Member for his comments. I am not familiar with the particular case that he presents or the hearings that he has attended today. But I do say that

consumers across the country are certainly benefiting from lower oil prices. That is not only due to the fact that international oil prices are low, but because we are reducing the taxation level. Every time we go to the gas pump the evidence is right there. It costs a lot less to fill up. I would say that the initiatives that this Government has taken have indeed been beneficial to the consumer of energy in this country.

Mr. Angus: I have a short supplementary for the Hon. Member. In her response right now she talked about the price at the pumps. I would like to ask her whether you can still buy Canadian gas at American pumps cheaper than you can in Canada?

Mrs. Collins: I have not filled up at any American gas stations with Canadian gas so I cannot give you the actual facts. I just know that when filling up at Canadian gas stations in some cases it is \$10 less, if you have a big gas-tank car.

Mr. Angus: Tell me where these places are.

Mrs. Collins: I do not buy very much gas myself, because I do not drive very much. But I have noticed the difference. There has been quite a change in gas prices, particularly over the last eight months.

[Translation]

Mr. Prud'homme: Mr. Speaker, may I take part in the debate?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sorry, but there is not time left.

[English]

It being 6.25 p.m., this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11.00 a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.25 p.m.