

Oral Questions

ation have been rebuffed. Today, however, we held a constructive meeting with Judge Rene Marin, Chairman of Canada Post. Our group included Mayor Marion Dewar and Alderman Holmes of the City of Ottawa, Shirley Carr and Ron Lang of the Canadian Labour Congress, the President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Mr. Ian Kimmerley, a well-known stamp dealer and journalist.

A number of positive decisions have come from this meeting, although Canada Post was not prepared to reconsider its decision concerning the 14 museum employees whose lay-off notices expire May 2.

The City, Canada Post, the NCC and the Department of Public Works will meet to talk about potential sites for the National Postal Museum. Our group, hopefully with the participation of Canada Post, will seek to meet with you, Mr. Speaker, and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), to try to continue the National Postal Museum in its present location until permanent quarters are found. We will meet again with Judge Marin in a month.

The attendance at this meeting is a sign of the broad public support which is developing for the National Postal Museum. I urge the Government and Canada Post to respond to that display of public support. I hope my fellow Members of Parliament and you, Mr. Speaker, will co-operate to see whether we can keep the National Postal Museum on Wellington Street just long enough until it can move into new, permanent quarters.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[Translation]

ENERGY

WESTERN ACCORD—IMPACT ON CANADIAN OIL COMPANIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The oil agreement does not set a target date for bringing Canadian ownership up to 50 per cent. Why are the interests of foreign-controlled companies more important than those of companies controlled by Canadians? Why have specific benefits previously available to Canadian oil companies disappeared from the new oil accord?

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, first let me point out a distortion in the House yesterday. Since then, Duncan Allan, the Deputy Minister of Energy of Ontario, says that his position was distorted, that the position is that the Accord offers great potential for Ontario, indeed for all of Canada, not only in lower oil and gas prices for the consumers in this province—

Some Hon. Members: Answer the question.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —but in the investment and industrial activity that will subsequently flow. There is nothing in that agreement—

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, the Minister is not answering the question.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —that can be said to be adverse to Ontario's interest.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): In specific response to the—

Mr. Boudria: What is he going to be appointed to over the weekend?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Give us a chance. In response to the specific question of the Leader of the Opposition, he will note that there is a provision whereby Canadian exploration and Canadian development expenses of companies can be applied against the PGRT in the event that they do not have taxable income. As the Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows, Canadian companies are the ones which do not normally have taxable income, so they will benefit very clearly by this provision in the energy agreement.

CANADIAN OWNERSHIP ISSUE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Your Honour will note that the Minister bootlegged in a statement which he wanted to make that had nothing to do with the question. I have known Duncan Allan a long time, and I am sure he must have had his arm twisted right out of his socket this morning to get that particular answer for the Minister. I take the initial reaction of the Deputy Minister of Energy for Ontario when he spoke spontaneously in reaction to this oil deal.

Let me pursue the matter further. Article 7 of the oil deal gives no preference at all to the Canadianization elements of the former National Energy Program, nor does it move toward 50 per cent ownership of the oil and gas industry. Why is it that this particular deal sacrifices the primary interest of the independent Canadian oil industry to the multinationals?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, first might I ask whether the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition is saying that Duncan Allan is not an honourable man, that he is—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Oh, no.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): —being forced to say things that he doesn't agree with? He was misquoted, and now he has stated very clearly the position that he was going to take.