

Oral Questions

answer. He answers the President of the United States. I would hope he would answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the Hon. Member have a question, please?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: That is one way to guarantee you will get an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Can we have a question?

Ms. Copps: The Prime Minister refuses to listen to his own Member for Annapolis Valley—Hants.

Mr. Crosbie: Question!

Ms. Copps: He refuses to listen to the Hon. Member for Champlain.

Some Hon. Members: Question!

Ms. Copps: Will the Prime Minister listen to the servicemen who were forced for the first time in history to march on the Hill today, or will he at least listen to the Progressive Conservative Women's Association of New Brunswick who came all the way to Ottawa to fight against his Government's unjust changes to unemployment insurance—

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Ms. Copps: Will he at least listen to them?

Mr. Speaker: Order. It may be supplementary to an earlier question but it was not supplementary to the Hon. Member's first question.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville.

Ms. Copps: You shouldn't laugh at it, Brian; it's going to haunt you for a long time to come.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Copps: Remember Madame Denis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Copps: Remember Madame Denis.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Both sides. The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville.

Ms. Copps: The Prime Minister laughs.

Some Hon. Members: Out!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Member for Hamilton East and other Hon. Members will come to order, please, and will stay in order. The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville.

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● (1450)

ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): I will give it a try. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Energy. We all know now why the gas consumers are not getting the full benefit of the drop in crude oil prices. Jack McLeod, the President of Shell Canada, just announced that his company is holding up to 4 cents a litre of the consumers' money in order to boost the shareholders' profits. Will the Prime Minister now pick up the telephone and telephone Bill Hopper at Petro-Canada and ask him to take the lead and lower the price of gasoline by at least 4 cents a litre so the consumers will enjoy the full savings they deserve?

Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of points that have to be made here. The federal Government does not set gasoline prices, never has and does not now. Second, the Minister of Energy has wired the companies and asked them to pass the savings on to the consumers. It is obvious that it has been done because gasoline prices in Toronto alone have dropped from 50 cents a litre to 36 cents a litre, a saving of some 13, 14 cents a litre, or 59 cents a gallon. The consumers are benefiting from the lower crude prices.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER ASK PRESIDENT OF SHELL CANADA TO REDUCE PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Prime Minister, and as a friend of big business maybe he can answer the question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Order. Let me make it clear now that questions, as all honourable Members know, are to the Government. The Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville has a supplementary?

[Translation]

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, is the Prime Minister of Canada prepared to call his friend, Shell Canada President Jack MacLeod, and suggest to him that he should immediately lower the price of his gasoline by at least 4 cents a litre? Would he do that now?