

## ENERGY

DEREGULATION OF NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY—EFFECT ON  
SMALL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The deregulation of natural gas has been devastating to the small gas producers in western Canada. Now the Ontario Energy Board has stated that residential users of natural gas are being overcharged. How can the Government continue to support this program of deregulation which is so blatantly unfair to both the small producers and the residential users of natural gas?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, in the discharge of their duties provincial agencies like that of Ontario may state their views on this question, however it is the market place which determines the situation and the agencies simply assume their responsibilities in their own regulatory sector.

[English]

## PRICE CHARGED TO CONSUMERS

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister told the consumers of natural gas that the price for natural gas would come down with deregulation. If the Government is determined to continue with deregulation, will the Minister now assure the consumers of natural gas that they will be able to get natural gas at a fair price this year—not next year, not in five years, but beginning this year?

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** At a fair price this year, yes, Mr. Speaker.

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## LABOUR RELATIONS

## BILL C-45—INQUIRY CONCERNING PROCLAMATION

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Government House Leader. Bill C-45, an Act respecting employment and employer and employee relations in the Senate, the House of Commons and the Library of Parliament was passed by the House and received Royal Assent from the other place on June 27 of this year. Can the Government House Leader indicate to us when this Bill will be Gazetted, so that the employees of Parliament Hill will finally have some legal rights?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that is currently before the Board of Internal Economy, on which there are representatives of all Parties, including yourself, Sir. This issue is currently being considered. As a matter of fact it will be dealt with at tonight's meeting. There

## Oral Questions

is a disposition to proceed, at least on parts of this Bill, at the earliest possible date. I would expect that there would be a recommendation coming forward from the Board of Internal Economy in the very near future.

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## AIR CANADA

## DRUG TESTING OF PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the congenial Minister of Transport. I am sure that that is not a contradiction in terms.

I am sure that the Minister is aware that a few weeks ago Air Canada began conducting secret and mandatory drug tests on all possible future employees. Has Air Canada explained to the Minister why, when the initial test is positive, that the Air Canada drug test manual does not require a second test, which is the only acceptable confirmation procedure that would stand up in a court of law? By the way, a second test is routine for race horses when the first test proves positive. Why does Air Canada not require a second test?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** I am glad to be called congenial. That has been one of my dominant traits for many years.

As I understand it from Air Canada, these tests are conducted as part of the regular medical examination that any applicant for a new job with Air Canada has to have. No one has been called in for a test who already works at Air Canada. They are very simple tests to do, and can be done very easily when the normal medical examination is done.

With reference to the question of a second test, or the exact point that the hon. gentleman is asking, I will have to check into that and report back to him.

## REQUEST FOR MORATORIUM ON EMPLOYEE DRUG TESTING

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I wonder whether the Minister of Transport can speak on his behalf and tell us whether or not, because of the controversy around this issue, the Government is now ready to put an end to employee drug testing in this country, or at the very least impose a moratorium on drug testing until we have some minimum national standards, so that prospective employees have some rights?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, from the point of view of a national drug strategy I wish to tell the Hon. Member, as has been stated before, that the Government does not have any intention to move into mandatory drug testing. There is a condition, which I think has been generally accepted by the public, namely, that where health and safety are a consideration, this type of testing is legitimate. Obviously, even then there must be some