

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**HOUSING**

**MONTREAL—ACTION TO PREVENT BUYERS HAVING TO PAY HIGHER PRICE THAN FIRST AGREED UPON**

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the minister responsible for consumer protection, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Does the minister intend to make representations to his colleague, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, in order to prevent greater Montreal contractors from demanding a price higher than the one the buyer had accepted when he took an option?

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs and I are already aware of these difficulties and we want to do our best to find a solution to problems of federal jurisdiction. But I think, of course, that this is mainly a matter under provincial jurisdiction; we will nevertheless do all we can to solve the problem.

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[English]

**INDUSTRY**

**SHORTAGE OF CORRUGATED CONTAINERS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA FOOD PROCESSORS**

**Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has he been made aware of the serious shortage of corrugated containers facing the food processing industry in British Columbia? If so, has any action been taken to assure supplies adequate to meet the needs of the industry?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the problems that have arisen in this industry from time to time. Generally, I think that the initiatives we have taken and the actions the industry have taken have settled the problem. I will be pleased to look into this particular question on behalf of the hon. member.

**Mr. Patterson:** As an over-all shortage of 800,000 containers is predicted for this year and a shortage of 200,000 within the next three months in one plant alone in my riding, will the minister give this problem immediate attention to ensure that remedial action is taken?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is a representation.

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**ENERGY**

**PRICE AGREED ON BY FIRST MINISTERS FOR CANADIAN CRUDE OIL—EFFECT OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL INCREASES ON CONSUMER PRICES**

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and

[Mr. McKinnon.]

Resources I should like to put a further question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the Acting Prime Minister today that the actual agreement of the first ministers was for \$6.50 per barrel, is he aware of the telex sent by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stating that the agreement provided for an increase of \$2.50 per barrel in Canadian crude oil prices and it did not specifically refer to a \$6.50 price at the wellhead?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, at the first ministers' meeting there was no doubt whatever that there was general agreement on a \$6.50 price, plus transportation costs, and no other agreement of any kind was reached.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary, and perhaps we will have time for two more quick questions before calling orders of the day.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, may I again direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Noting that there are some apparent differences in the interpretation of the March 27 agreement and the possible effect on retail prices of the new, increased, wellhead rate, can the Acting Prime Minister tell the House, in light of the revelation that an extra charge may be allowed on unconventional oils, which make up about 12 per cent of total domestic production, whether that extra charge will be added to the consumer price and raise prices substantially above the 8.5 cents and 3.5 cent limits specified earlier by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is asking me to enter into an arithmetical calculation in the House of Commons. I believe that it was a very considerable achievement to have reached agreement on a wellhead price of \$6.50, a single price across Canada. The minor changes Alberta has made unilaterally and not by agreement are not such as to cause us to bring the whole agreement into question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member rises on a further supplementary. I will recognize him and then call orders of the day.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Prime Minister confirm if the retail price will be at least slightly higher than was originally anticipated?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. gentleman can do arithmetic too. I think questions of this kind should be directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who will be here at the beginning of next week.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I raise a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Minister of Supply and Services on a point of order.

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to answer the question put by the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) as regards the sulphur content of Roumanian oil.