

Oral Questions

ers are concerned, of course, are the federal, municipal, and provincial tax loads which have been imposed on gasoline prices. May I remind the Hon. Member that those taxes go to pay for the social services which Canadians desire.

CONSUMER PROTESTS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, in fact it is the wholesale prices which have gone up the most. My colleagues have received over 500 of these protest coupons today—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Waddell: Why is the Minister ignoring these protests and just saying to hell with them?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Waddell: Why is she ignoring them? Why does she not stand up for the Canadian consumer instead of the oil companies?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, given the presentation of the question, it was not possible to hear it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It took the whole weekend caucus to figure that one out.

Mr. Deans: Watch the news.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MIDDLE EAST—SEARCH FOR STABLE PEACE

Mr. Reginald Stackhouse (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The strongest defence against terrorism in the West is stable peace in the Middle East based on recognition of Israel and the justice needed for Palestinians. What initiatives can Canada take to seek that type of peace, in view of Yassir Arafat's recent proposal for an international conference on the rights of Palestinians?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the House would agree that the recent cycle of terrorism in the Middle East has added even more instability to a situation that is already difficult. It makes it imperative, in the view of this Government, that an answer be found, a response, to the terrorism which is growing in the world. Canada intends to be part of that response to terrorism.

With regard to the more basic and continuing problems in the Middle East, Canada intends to continue the constructive approach which has been followed by Canadian Governments of both Parties.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

FUTURE OF MONCTON SHOPS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In light of a very alarming newspaper report which states that everything east of Montreal is a disaster, and the recommendation to close Terra Transport, would this not spell an end to the Moncton shops? Will the Minister stand in his place today and reject and dismiss this recommendation so as to save the shops in Moncton?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the statement to which the Hon. Member refers I have described as grossly inaccurate and irresponsible. As well, I think I can say that the President and Chief Executive Officer of CN will be issuing a statement rejecting out of hand the contents of this morning's article. I hope that will clarify the issue once and for all.

REQUEST FOR PROTECTION OF JOBS

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, the Minister has often expressed his concern for the 1,200 jobs in Moncton. However, rumours still persist. Will the Minister commit himself right now to protecting these 1,200 jobs in Moncton? They mean a lot to the City of Moncton. Will he commit himself in this respect?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has no monopoly on concern.

Mr. Caccia: It's in his riding.

Mr. Mazankowski: Of course I am concerned, as is the management of CN, which is assessing the maintenance requirements right across the country, recognizing that there has been a drastic decline in traffic and recognizing the fact that there has been a shift in the traffic pattern. All of these factors are taken into consideration. I am sure the Hon. Member would not want me to superimpose my authority on the Board of Directors and the legitimate managers of CN.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Yes, we do.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.