

Oral Questions

Here is my question to the Minister: Can she explain why the multinationals have passed the lower international prices on to American consumers, yet those same companies do not appear anxious to pass the same savings on to Canadian drivers?

[English]

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not understand where the Hon. Member gets his figures. He said the drop had occurred in the last four months, let us say back to November.

The figures I have for the official crude oil price, average Canadian posted, for November are \$27.95 U.S., and for January 28 \$20 U.S.

I think, as I have explained to the Member before, that part of that decrease which occurred really toward the end of January has already been passed through, and we expect the rest of it to be passed through in a few weeks time.

[Translation]

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, as they say in boxing, keep an eye on the referee, somebody is throwing punches somewhere.

All newspapers report that the international price of a barrel of oil is down to \$12, television, the media—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Thank you.

Mr. Garneau: Here is my question, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Is it the policy of the Tory Government to have the Canadian consumer pay a higher price for gas and oil than the international price? Is this the policy of the Government?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think what I really should do for the benefit of Hon. Members is to give more information about the way the international oil market works.

The price of the Hon. Member is using of \$12 is the spot Brent price in the North Sea, which is offered but not necessarily accepted for future delivery. That price which the Member talks about is for some load of oil that will be delivered weeks or months in the future, which then has to be transported, refined, processed, stored, distributed, and sent to the pumps.

The price that Canadians oil is currently posted at is around the \$22, \$21 range U.S. That is the price to which he should be referring.

• (1430)

SHIPBUILDING

PLACEMENT OF CN MARINE FERRY ORDER

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. In November 1984 the Minister of Transport stood in his place in the House and promised that CN Marine would place orders for several vessels, including a second state-of-the-art ferry, with Canadian yards. Will the Minister rise in his place in the House today and assure 700 angry workers, who feel left out in the cold by the Government, that CN Marine will forthwith place orders for this second state-of-the-art ferry with their yard?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member has indicated, the shipbuilding industry in Canada is presently going through a very difficult time. We know that the yard to which he referred has perhaps been impacted upon more than other yards. However, I would like to reassure the Hon. Member and other Members of the House that the Government has been in the past, and continues to be, the main purchasing agent for work at shipyards. Government procurement is the main source of activity in Canadian shipyards, and we intend to continue that type of sourcing.

LAUZON SHIPYARD

Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, will the Minister promise the contract to the angry workers at Lauzon?

Mr. Malépart: Yes or no.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as far as we are concerned the workers at Lauzon to whom the Hon. Member refers—

Mr. Malépart: Yes or no?

Mr. Stevens: The Hon. Member says "yes or no". He obviously did not understand the nature of the question. This is quite a complicated matter. I suggest that that shows how the Opposition deals very frivolously with a very serious question.

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[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS

PREFERENCE TO FINANCIAL BACKERS OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN AWARDING GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question concerns the contract policies of the Department of Public Works and is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister, in the absence of the Prime Minister.