

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, what I can tell the hon. member is that if the government of Alberta—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lalonde:**—eliminates the cutbacks—

**An hon. Member:** That is blackmail.

**An hon. Member:** Sit down, Marc.

**Mr. Lalonde:** If you do not have any respect for the House I think you would at least—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** The Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition has lost control of his troops.

**Mr. Clark:** Go to court, André.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, what I can tell the hon. member is that if the government of Alberta eliminates the cutbacks, this government is going to reduce the price of oil by 7.25 cents a gallon tomorrow morning, out of that 9 cents.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED CHARGES BY OIL COMPANIES

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I was in the Alberta legislature two weeks ago and I heard the Alberta ministers get up and blame the federal government, and today we have the federal minister get up and blame the Alberta government. The problem is that the consumers are the ones who are caught.

The last time the minister brought in an increased price on gasoline the oil companies piggybacked an extra 6 cents a gallon on to that increase. These are the same companies that, according to the Bertrand report, ripped us off for \$12 billion. Now, the government fired Bertrand, or at least moved him aside. Will the minister assure this House—and let us forget about promises in the past—he has put up the price of gasoline—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Waddell:** My friends to my right were going to put it up as well, so they can just listen to this for a moment. Will the minister assure this House that he is going to stop the oil companies from adding any additional cost increases to last night's increase?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I would also invite my colleagues from the NDP to get their act together in terms of policy in this field. I remind them that their colleagues in Saskatchewan have been arguing and pressing for substantial price increases in the price of oil, and they cannot have it both ways.

As far as the companies are concerned, I also remind my friend that this government has imposed the tax that the provincial governments and the industry claim—

**An hon. Member:** Be serious.

**Mr. Lalonde:**—is going to reduce their cash flow by 25 to 30 per cent because of the large profits taken in the last year. These are steps that have been taken by this government to prevent excess profits being made by the oil and gas companies in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lalonde:** As far as the specific point raised by the hon. member is concerned, my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, is going to monitor the action taken by the companies, and I certainly hope that in the current context they will not add anything to the announced increases. I can assure my hon. friend that the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is very much aware of this situation.

## ASSURANCE SOUGHT RESPECTING AGREEMENT WITH ALBERTA

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, like a lawyer with a weak defence, the minister goes on the offence. It is not so much that Canadians are against higher oil prices, although they do not like them; what they do not like is the minister nickelling and diming us to death every couple of months.

I ask the minister will he confirm that in less than a month consumers will be facing another \$1 a barrel increase, and will he tell this House when will there be an end in sight—

**An hon. Member:** Ask Lougheed.

**Mr. Waddell:**—to these continuous increases? When are we going to have a full agreement with Alberta and the producing provinces, and some firm assurances that we are going to know what the future increases are?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. member that the \$1 increase announced in the budget will come into effect in September, not in July of this year. In addition, we are involved in negotiations with the government of Alberta.

I have indicated my regret over the steps taken by the government of Alberta in cutting production another 60,000 barrels a day—

**An hon. Member:** You have given nothing.

**Mr. Lalonde:**—in the current circumstances where we are negotiating in a rather positive atmosphere.

I have been asked by the government of Alberta to delay the introduction of an energy security act because of those negotiations. I have agreed and said that I will not proceed with the debate on this proposed legislation at least until the