

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH ONTARIO PREMIER

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, if there was no negative impact, why was an emergency meeting held between the Prime Minister and the Premier of Ontario, even if it was after the fact? Why did the Premier come out of that meeting empty-handed? Would the Minister not agree with the Ontario Deputy Minister of Energy, Duncan Allan, who said that the Government gave away the store to the multinational oil companies?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that same question was put yesterday by Hon. Members of the Opposition. There was no emergency meeting. There was a meeting with the Premier of Ontario, and there will continue to be meetings with Premiers of other provinces, totally unlike the die that was cast by the previous administration. There is a new era of federal-provincial co-operation in existence now. You will have to get used to that.

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO ONTARIO DEPUTY MINISTER

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. The Ontario Deputy Energy Minister, Duncan Allan, fears that the federal Government "gave away the store" and is exhibiting "a lot of faith" that the oil industry won't simply take its money and run. Does the Minister agree with that statement? If he does not agree with it, is he accusing the Government of Ontario of using scare tactics?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Simply put, Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with that statement. I would suggest that the jobs which will be created by the Western Accord will be beneficial, perhaps even to downtown Vancouver. The Accord will be beneficial to the Province of Ontario, the Province of Quebec, and the entire country, because of the jobs that will be created by the new incentives that are now in place and which were taken away by the previous Government. I would remind the House that the Hon. Member did not like the last energy policy for the same reason, that it was cutting out jobs all across the country.

IMPACT ON CONSUMERS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, consumers and taxpayers in downtown Vancouver and elsewhere in the country are concerned that their taxes are going to be increased, either at the pump or generally, to pay for this windfall that was given to the oil companies. Will the Minister go on record telling Canadian consumers that their taxes will not be increased to pay for the windfall he just gave to the oil companies?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I answered an almost identical question about two minutes ago. If the Hon. Member did not hear me then, I will repeat the answer. Consumers, particularly those who are out of a job

Oral Questions

today, will be very pleased by the impact of this energy accord because it will create jobs right across the country. On September 4 we were elected to create jobs, and we will be creating those jobs.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

FUTURE LEVELS OF IMMIGRATION

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Yesterday, the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration tabled its report on future immigration levels. Could the Minister inform the House whether he agrees with the mainly economic focus of the report and especially with the fact that we seem to be attracting wealthy immigrants to ensure Canada's economic growth?

[English]

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is referring to a report of the parliamentary committee. When the Government has had an opportunity to review that report it will be making its views known. The report, and the press conference following that report, in no way impinges upon Canada's ability to accept refugees.

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TRUST COMPANIES

COLLAPSE OF WESTERN CAPITAL TRUST

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Finance. In the last eight weeks we have seen a major trust company in Saskatchewan collapse, and the near collapse of the tenth largest bank in Canada. We learned yesterday that Western Capital Trust has collapsed in Vancouver. It is important that the financial community know that the Minister is taking action.

When the Minister learns that a trust company or bank is in trouble, does she always take immediate action to ensure that the Government is doing everything possible to stop a collapse or near collapse?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, today I learned from sources within the Department of Insurance that the Minister of State for Finance was given a report in December outlining the problems associated with Western