

## INDUSTRY

## IMPERIAL OIL—SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL OPERATIONS IN VIEW OF PARENT COMPANY'S ADMISSION OF POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** I was asking the Prime Minister if he would follow the example of the Social Credit Party, which stated yesterday in a straightforward way the amount of money it had received in the past from Imperial Oil Company. However, in view of the fact that Senator Church's committee in the United States discovered from internal Exxon documents that political contributions were covered up in Italy by charging them to bookkeeping accounts labelled "fuel to power plants, natural gas imports, licences, taxes and deferred tax payments," and considering that Imperial Oil has only paid in taxes to the Government of Canada in excess of \$12 billion in revenue in the past five years, an effective tax rate of only 6 per cent, I would like to ask the Prime Minister if he would inquire under the Inquiries Act and investigate all the financial operations of Imperial Oil of Canada during the past five years.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I fail to see why the Leader of the New Democratic Party is talking about what happened in Italy. I suppose he could talk about what happened in ten or twenty other countries where Exxon operates.

**Mr. Broadbent:** It is a multinational, remember.

**Mr. Trudeau:** But if the hon. member wants to know about the Canadian practice, we answer across the floor of the House.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## REQUEST FOR REASONS FOR HIGH PRICE OF SUGAR

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Considering that the price of sugar is not subjected to any control in Canada, and because unexpected price fluctuations of this commodity tend to create confusion in the minds of the people concerning the true role the government should play in this area, could the minister indicate to the House, for the information of consumers, the reason behind the price instability of this commodity?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am taking this question as notice and will refer it to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, so that he may reply to it when he returns to the House.

## Oral Questions

[English]

## OLYMPIC GAMES

## ALLEGED STATEMENT BY POSTMASTER GENERAL CONCERNING FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFICIT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the statement of the Postmaster General in Halifax that the federal government may have a moral obligation to cover any deficit incurred by the 1976 Olympics, would the Prime Minister clarify whether this view reflects current government policy with respect to the Olympic financing needs?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the moral obligations of the Postmaster General are those the government states in its policy, but I have not seen the statement of the Postmaster General. He is a very moral man, and he pleads that way in cabinet.

**Mr. Baldwin:** When was morality ever related to the Liberal Party?

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

**Mr. Stevens:** In view of the reference of the Prime Minister to morals, would he inform the House if indeed he shares the view that there is a federal moral obligation to finance the debt, and if so, how does he reconcile this position with his former "inretractability?"

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Try that word again.

**An hon. Member:** It is a medical term for "retract".

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I do not have to reconcile anything with my intractability.

**Mr. Stevens:** As the Postmaster General qualified his comment by stating that the deficit would only be covered if a majority of Canadians supported the action, would the Prime Minister indicate how such majority support might be determined? Is it planned to have a referendum and if so, as this is a matter of financing, would the Prime Minister also hold a referendum on the ten cents per gallon gasoline tax and see if a majority of Canadians support that?

● (1120)

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Next time, try it phonetically.

\* \* \*

## AIR CANADA

## ALLEGED DEAL WITH LEBANESE MINISTER OF TOURISM—SUGGESTED QUESTIONABLE OPERATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport, I would address my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the latest