

the minister promised that as a result of his conversations with the banks he could attract \$1 billion of private funds into housing. He failed to do this. How much private money does he now hope to attract into housing and how many starts will be financed?

**Mr. Danson:** Mr. Speaker, we have had further discussions with the private lending institutions. They have shown interest in the old program. Obviously, it needed a greater infusion and some changes in the rules. We are meeting with the lending institutions across the country as a result of this increase in the subsidy. It will depend on the over-all flow of mortgage funds. I have been speaking to someone in one of the major financial markets of this country and there is an indication that this will break loose, the type of fund we are hoping for, initially in the range of \$1 billion. I am not setting any targets on this. I want as much as I can get out of these sources.

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[*Translation*]

### ENERGY

#### POSSIBILITY OF REFUNDING TAX ON HEATING OIL TO LOW INCOME FAMILIES

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Considering that corporations will be entitled to a refund of tax on fuel consumption, which the government feels is a fine measure, may I ask the minister whether he is considering something similar in respect of heating oil in favour more specifically of Canadian families in the under \$12,000 annual income bracket?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I must emphasize that there will be no excise tax on fuel oil or other oil products except gasoline. I must say, however, that there will be a price increase in mid-August. This time, it will be a real price increase on fuel oil, not a 10 cents a gallon increase limited to gasoline.

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[*English*]

### CONSUMER AFFAIRS

#### IMPACT OF INCREASED ENERGY COSTS ON COST OF LIVING—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Has the minister conducted any cost analysis to measure the impact of the increase in fuel oil and gasoline prices on the cost of living and more particularly on the cost of food, given the fact that it has been suggested that the net result will be a 1.6 per cent increase in the consumer price index?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Not yet, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the minister's answer but I presume he replied in the negative. I should

### Oral Questions

like to know if it is the minister's intention to consult with his colleagues in cabinet, especially the Minister of Agriculture, to determine what the impact of the increased price of gasoline and fuel oil will be on the cost of living, especially on food, bearing in mind the minister's responsibility to protect the consumers' interests.

**Mr. Ouellet:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### INQUEST AT BRAMPTON—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL OBSERVER TO STUDY PROBLEM OF GUN CONTROL—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, a question for the Solicitor General. Has the minister been requested by or on behalf of the chief coroner of Ontario and the Crown prosecutor engaged in the inquest at Brampton to send an official or observer in order to study the circumstances and background in relation to the serious problem of gun control? If that request was made did the minister refuse to send an observer?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if I was asked directly but I know the coroner's office was in touch with the Assistant Deputy Solicitor General, Robin Bourne, and asked him to appear at the coroner's inquest to discuss proposals on gun control. The Assistant Deputy Solicitor General, in consultation with me and the Deputy Solicitor General took the position that, being an official of the federal government, he should not appear before a coroner's inquiry to discuss proposals relating to policy. The Assistant Deputy Solicitor General consulted with officials in the Department of Justice and they gave the same advice. I now understand that the coroner is going to issue a summons for him but we will deal with that in due course.

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### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is appropriate that close to the end of the question period my question to the Prime Minister relates to a rather historic event, that being the seventh anniversary of the election of—

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I am glad it took someone from this side to remind hon. members opposite of the historic event. This is the seventh anniversary of the election of—

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

**Mr. Nowlan:** —after one of the most intellectually dishonest campaigns in Canadian history. I would therefore like to ask the Prime Minister if his untied necktie symbolizes the looseness and listlessness of leadership in government?