

Oral Questions

the expansion of that airport, that multimillion dollar program. Consultation and planification is taking place with municipal authorities and we expect to have a tender call in the very near future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

ENERGY CONSERVATION—CONTINUANCE OF PROGRAM

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, my questions are supplementary to those put by my colleague, the hon. member for Calgary Centre, and I direct them to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I accept his advice to ignore for the time being the unfortunate document from his department leaked earlier in the year and I will concentrate on the contents of this multimillion dollar advertising program.

I would draw his attention to one advertisement which appeared in the *Citizen* on August 15. The caption was "We Canadians produce more energy than we use". That is hardly conceived to encourage conservation. Setting that aside, let me point out that ad specifically says that last year we imported a net \$500 million in petroleum and petroleum products. That is the content of the ad, and that is the equivalent, on the basis of \$22 per barrel, of 62,300 barrels per day net imports. I think that is a very fair calculation for 1979.

Will the minister explain how he can possibly permit the continuance of that incorrect information when the National Energy Board has said our imports were 334,000 per day, Stats Canada has said they were 322,000 barrels per day, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in a report to the Senate said the figure was 227,000, and the most unimpeachable source of all, the minister, in Vancouver on September 15 of this year, said the figure was 150,000 barrels per day? How can the continuance of this campaign be permitted in view of these four impeccable sources?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, once again my honourable colleague does not make the distinction between energy as a whole and oil as one specific element in the consumption of energy in Canada. With regard to the total reserves of energy in Canada, and this is a fact no one has any reason to hide or doubt, we are net exporters of energy. It is high time the opposition got that through its skull, if it is not aware of the facts.

As for oil as such, we are net importers, and that we have said time and time again. The figures mentioned by the hon. member, which I too have quoted, are there to indicate it, to prove it. As for the specific figures quoted from the advertisement referred to by the hon. member, once again I must point out that he is referring to last year's figures. If I understood his question correctly, and I can assure him those figures were

checked by officials of my department, they correspond to the reality.

[*English*]

Mr. Jarvis: Madam Speaker, is the minister suggesting that he can continue to spend millions of taxpayers' dollars in the face of that deliberately misleading statement? I do not accuse him of being responsible for it, but it is misleading to the extent that Canadians are being told on the one hand in an advertisement that we import 62,000 barrels per day, when in other statements, not the least important of which was the minister's, it has been indicated that it is at least two and a half times as much?

I will set that aside and let the minister consider it because I want to ask him about another ad dealing with Arctic resources, and the minister is familiar with that advertisement. It contains several inaccuracies, inaccurate to the degree that the minister has been contacted by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee. Why has the minister refused to answer at least two letters of inquiry from that committee; will he withdraw that particular advertisement; why is the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs not investigating this; and will the subject matter of the entire advertising program be referred to the appropriate standing committee?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I want to challenge very completely the statement by the hon. member that the advertisement he was referring to was misleading in any way, shape or form. The statements are there and they correspond with the facts.

As far as the second advertisement to which the hon. member referred is concerned, indeed I have been contacted by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, I have examined very carefully the statements and the allegation, and up to now I have been able to find only one point the committee raised which corresponds to an omission, and that was the omission of reference to Dome Petroleum as being one of the partners in the Arctic pilot project. As far as the rest is concerned, the statements made in the advertisement are completely according to the facts.

THE CONSTITUTION—INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAM

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): If I may, Madam Speaker, I would like to return to some questions about the constitutional advertising. I had intended to direct questions to the Minister of State for Multiculturalism on publicly paid for Liberal propaganda, but he is not here so perhaps I can turn to the President of the Treasury Board. I should start, perhaps, by indicating to members opposite that those on this side like the new ad showing all the Liberal parliamentary secretaries dressed up as beavers holding signs. We think that is terrific!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1450)

Mr. Bosley: There was an indication given in the recent Quebec press and through the CBC to the effect that the