

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I can reply to that question. The big difference in the prices in Canada is very often caused by the provincial taxes.

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** In the case of Quebec, for example, the Province of Quebec takes much more money than any other Province. There is no provincial tax in Alberta. There is a substantial tax in Ontario and, if you compare the level of provincial tax in Ontario and the tax levied in most of the neighbouring States of the United States, the take by the American States is much less than that taken by the Ontario provincial Government or the Quebec provincial Government.

#### LIBERAL PARTY PROMISE ON PRICE

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, I am sure the Minister will know that the federal Government is taking at least the largest portion out of every dollar of gasoline purchased at the pump.

**Some Hon. Members:** No.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Gurbin:** Can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell us where his promise and the Liberal promise that prices would not elevate beyond 75 per cent of world levels has gone? Where is that promise now? Does that mean Canadian voters, consumers, farmers, business men, and everyone who uses gas, should forget about any promise or commitment to 75 per cent of the world level?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is not too familiar with the last campaign. In the last campaign we said that there was not to be the 18-cent tax above normal prices.

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** I would like to correct the Hon. Member when he says that the federal tax in Canada is much higher than in the United States. It is at about the same level as in the United States. The big difference in Canada is caused by provincial taxes which are much more in most Provinces than the taxes charged by the States in the United States. Of course the Province of Alberta, and Saskatchewan, have no sales tax and that is why the prices are competitive there.

\* \* \*

#### FISHERIES

##### RESTRUCTURING OF EAST COAST INDUSTRY—AGREEMENT WITH BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. It is my

#### Oral Questions

understanding from the court proceedings in the fisheries products reorganization in Newfoundland that there is a secret agreement between the Government of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia relating to the restructuring of the fisheries. Is it the Government's intention to disclose the details of this agreement to Parliament? If not, why not?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I can say to my hon. friend that this agreement reached between the federal negotiator and the president of the Bank of Nova Scotia has been transmitted in confidence to the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, and I think also to the Premier of Nova Scotia. As for making it public, I do not think, because of the sensitive commercial nature of that document, that I am at liberty to make it public at this moment.

**Mr. Crouse:** I thank the Minister for that answer, Madam Speaker.

#### NATURE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENTS

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Did this secret agreement involve the Government in making unusual or special commitments? If so, what are they? What are the amounts committed, and was Nova Scotia's restructuring agreement contingent upon access to the Gulf fishery in 1983 and beyond?

**Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, there is absolutely nothing secret. The agreement that has been reached with the Bank of Nova Scotia and Premier Peckford has been made public by Premier Peckford and myself at a joint press conference. We gave all the figures.

As for fishing allocations, I can assure the Hon. Member that the federal Minister of Fisheries today or in the future will never allocate fish on a bilateral basis. All Provinces participate in that question. For instance, last week all the Deputy Ministers of Fisheries, including the one from Nova Scotia from where the Hon. Member comes, participated in a meeting in Ottawa precisely on that topic, among others. This is the only way we can keep the confidence of all the participants. If I start doing secret deals with one Government, at that point of course there will be a lot of skepticism.