

each of the next three years, and just by moving the date he is going to change it.

I have a question for the Minister of Finance—pardon me, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who said in the House on Tuesday that the government's decision to reduce the excise tax saved the Canadian consumer \$2.6 billion. He also said in the House on April 16 that they intended to collect, from oil price increases, the same revenue that would have been collected under the December 11 budget. My question to the minister is, what kind of tax, levy or shell game is going to produce the \$2.6 billion that is not going to have any impact on the consumer?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, at the beginning of the question the hon. member indicated that he was asking it of the Minister of Finance.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: I will repeat the question, Madam Speaker. I then said "I am sorry" to the Minister of Energy. The question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is this: On Tuesday, he indicated to the House that the decision of his government not to impose the excise tax resulted in a \$2.6 billion saving to the Canadian consumer. But on April 16 he said in the House that he intends to collect as much revenue from oil price increases as the December 11 budget provided.

● (1425)

May I ask him by what tax levy or mysterious process he plans to produce that \$2.6 billion for the federal treasury without an impact being felt by the consumer?

Mr. Lalonde: I would invite the hon. member to show a little patience. When he sees the proposals the government is going to put forward, he will realize that they are, by a wide range, much more favourable to the consumer than the proposals put forward in the budget of the former minister of finance.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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INDUSTRY

AUTO INDUSTRY—PRESERVATION OF JOBS FOR CANADIAN WORKERS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I am sure that everybody in the House, the minister included, is aware that the president of Chrysler, Mr. Iacocca, has publicly indicated that there will be no job guarantees in the agreement he is attempting to sign with the Canadian government, that there will be no engine plant in Windsor and no small size, world car built in Canada, and that they have just completed negotiations to sell off their Australian holdings to a Japanese company.

Oral Questions

Can the minister tell the House exactly what it is we are putting on the negotiating table in an effort to preserve for Canada that portion of the auto industry, and preserve for Canadian workers the jobs, which he long since promised would be preserved?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I have been working to make sure that in this matter there is a fair deal for Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gray: In this connection, Canadian jobs are, and have always been, a very important consideration. In spite of what the chairman of Chrysler Corporation said in Detroit yesterday, it is a fact that senior executives of his parent corporation and the Canadian company were negotiating with my officials throughout yesterday afternoon, yesterday evening and on into the night. They are meeting right now. I am determined, and the government is determined, that this matter will not come to an end in the absence of a fair deal for our country and for Canadian workers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Since it is clear that all the matters which, according to the minister, ought to be contained within the agreement have been discarded by the chairman of Chrysler—there is to be no guarantee, no engine plant, no small car production—what is it that we are asking for in return for the \$200 million guarantee he is prepared to put up?

Mr. Gray: The hon. member and the New Democratic Party seem ready to cave in to the Chrysler Corporation. We are not.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Gray: The Canadian people will be able to judge this matter in light of the total package we are able to negotiate in return for whatever kind and level of assistance the government provides.

PROPOSALS FOR MAINTAINING VIABLE AUTO INDUSTRY IN CANADA

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): May I address my final supplementary to the Prime Minister? He will recall, as most of us do, that during the election, speaking in Windsor he indicated he was prepared to renegotiate the auto agreement with the United States. He made reference to the fact that there was a \$3 billion deficit in the auto trade pact arrangement.

● (1430)

Can the Prime Minister indicate whether he has personally met with any of the Big Three leaders or all of the Big Three leaders, whether he is prepared to meet with them or whether he has asked for or obtained a letter of commitment for the production of parts, for research and development and for the