

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, as for the first point, I can assure the hon. member that the federal government is in no hurry to resume the constitutional debates. In my opinion, it is important for me to say so, because of the eventual headlines and the various interpretations given to that meeting. I have always said and I repeat it that if the Quebec government wishes to reopen the constitutional issue, we are ready to do so, but it is not for the purpose of holding fruitless constitutional conferences that I am meeting the premier today.

As for the oil issue, I suppose that it will be discussed, along the lines mentioned by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I do not know anything about it for the moment.

[Later:]

MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND QUEBEC  
PREMIER—INQUIRY AS TO PRESS CONFERENCE OR  
STATEMENT

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Since several members are most concerned about the discussions he will have this afternoon with the Quebec premier, can the Prime Minister assure the House that he will make a statement after this meeting?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, such is not my intention. The hon. member can refer to previous meetings that I have had regularly with provincial premiers concerning this. It is not usual—and I do not intend to change this practice—to give press conferences, or even to give all details on these discussions.

[English]

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. gentleman whether he is looking forward to a successful series of constitutional conferences in the future, and will he find some other means of dealing with the provinces on energy problems rather than beating them over the head with the jawbone of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hellyer:** Is that a biblical reference?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had been tuned in on his hearing aid rather than thinking up some wisecrack question he might have understood my answer to the hon. member which was to the effect that I was not looking forward to a series of constitutional conferences.

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● (1200)

ENERGY

OIL—INQUIRY AS TO CONTINGENCY PLAN IN EVENT OF  
CURTAILMENT OF SUPPLIES

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In

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the short term does the minister have any contingency plans if crude oil is cut off or curtailed from foreign sources of the province of Alberta?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the hon. gentleman is representing the Progressive Conservative viewpoint in this regard, but I hope his party is not advocating that kind of action by the Progressive Conservative government of Alberta.

OIL PRICE INCREASES—STUDY OF IMPACT ON  
CONSUMERS AND INDUSTRY IN QUEBEC AND ATLANTIC  
PROVINCES

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary and is directed to the Minister of Finance. It arises out of the answer he gave to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition. As he is aware, the rise in the price of fuel will have a tremendous impact on the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada. I should like to know who commissioned the study mentioned by the Minister of Finance. I should also like to know what are the terms of reference of this study, when we in this parliament can expect a report from this study and what action will be taken by the government on the same?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I stated to the hon. gentleman's leader that I had asked for an assessment of the impact across the country of the events announced by my colleague last night. As a matter of fact, those studies are constantly under way. It is not a specific commission or specific inquiry. It is the usual and continual in-depth advice I get from my department.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. There were a number of questions raised about the impact of the increase in fuel costs on low income Canadians and Canadians generally. The Leader of the Opposition directed a specific question to the Minister of Finance asking if there had been a study undertaken. When one talks about a study it is presumed that the study has some terms of reference, is a funded study, and that there is some expectation there will be a report received and recommendations made. The minister now, in response to the hon. member for South Shore, backs away from his original position and says it is a continuing monitoring process. He has deliberately made a statement to the House which is not in accordance with the facts and is trying to give the impression he is aware of what is going on. It is obvious that there is no study. There is nothing being done. He is trying to circumvent the major aspect of this issue with deleterious statements of this kind.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I believe there are further supplementaries on this subject. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge.