

Oral Questions

from the Social Credit Party do not do when the hon. member's leader asks up to five questions in a row. I do not know if children are badly brought up in the Yukon, but the hon. member for Yukon is certainly uncouth to act in this fashion.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not know how that was translated, but in French I am not sure whether it was entirely parliamentary.

[Translation]

I ask for the co-operation of the hon. member for Témiscamingue as well as on all other hon. members to come back to the oral questions period and to forget for a moment about questions of privilege.

REFUSAL OF GOLDEN EAGLE CANADA LIMITED TO
DELIVER FUEL OIL IN RIMOUSKI AND MONT-JOLI

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Yesterday I asked a question with regard to the Golden Eagle Canada Limited. I was advised once again this morning that this company has set quotas for retailers and that, since November 26, it has told gas and heating fuel retailers in Mont-Joli and Rimouski that it will be unable to deliver any heating fuel before the December 1 price increase. Has the minister looked into the matter?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the hon. member. I had hoped to get an answer to his question this afternoon. As I have not received it, I shall inquire into it. It seems to me that, if such is the case, it is unfair and that steps should be taken to ensure that the company put a stop to that practice. I apologize once again and assure the hon. member that I shall look into the matter.

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[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

GASOLINE PRICE INCREASES—MINISTER'S POSITION—
INVESTIGATION UNDER COMBINES ACT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): As always, Mr. Speaker, I will try to pour oil on troubled waters. I direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In the minister's position of looking after matters of inflation in our country, did he agree to the increase of five cents a gallon for gasoline commencing December 1?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I share the concern about the matter the right hon. member has mentioned, not only with other members of the cabinet but hopefully with him and all other members of the House. I can only say that I take part in formulating and sharing decisions of cabinet like all other ministers.

[Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue).]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Was the minister advised by his department that as far back as August increases in the price of gasoline were taking place that were difficult to explain on the basis of cost? Did he have any investigation made under the Combines Investigation Act with regard to those gasoline price increases before the difficulties began in the Middle East?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, parliament has given me authority to have increases in prices looked into only to the extent they may indicate possible breaches of the Combines Investigation Act. As has been reported to the House on several occasions, as a result of a complaint by six citizens, made public by them, a formal inquiry under the act has been under way for the past several months covering the whole range of activities of the petroleum industry.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Has it been brought to the minister's attention that the Mount Royal Liberal Association at the convention of the Liberal Party here in September brought forth a resolution calling on the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, under the Combines Investigation Act, to look into the operation of the increase in the cost of gasoline? Did he receive that resolution and did he act on it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver South.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, it was a resolution of the Liberal Party of Canada from the Prime Minister's constituency. Surely that would receive the attention of the minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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ENERGY

KIND OF POSSIBLE OIL SHORTAGES IN BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In his statement Monday night the minister said that "Eastern Canada and, to a lesser extent, British Columbia, will feel the shortages most." In view of information recently received from the B.C. Energy Commission that to the best of their knowledge there is no cause for concern and there will be sufficient gasoline and home heating oil in British Columbia this winter, can the minister advise what shortages he was referring to in British Columbia?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Anticipated shortages of middle distillate and residual oil, both of which come from the United States.

Mr. Fraser: Can the minister advise upon what facts he bases his concern regarding possible shortages of other oils for industrial purposes and whether these facts have been communicated to the B.C. Energy Commission?