

Oral Questions

[Translation]

PARCEL DELIVERY IN NORTHERN CANADA

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister responsible for Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

For several months, a task force has been carrying out consultations and studies on the impact of unfair cuts in federal subsidies for air parcels in northern Abitibi and northern Canada.

My question is this: can the minister confirm that the study has been ready for two weeks and that several public servants and special assistants at Canada Post and Indian Affairs already have a copy? When does the minister intend to table this report publicly, in the House of Commons, for the benefit of hon. members?

[English]

Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. Indeed, I would like to point out the fact that it is through his representations, both in the House and to my colleague, the hon. member for Vaudreuil, that this study did take place. It is being studied by the officials of my department and, as soon as we receive a copy of the report to table, you will receive a copy.

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• (1500)

ENERGY

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Yesterday, gas prices increased by 10 cents a litre in Saskatoon and 17 cents a litre in Regina overnight. Also, yesterday in committee, the chairman of Petro-Canada said: "recent increases in gasoline prices have been due to speculation and not the fundamentals of supply and demand."

Can the minister of energy commit himself today to initiate an investigation into these dramatic price increases and make big oil companies justify this attack on Canadian consumers? Is he on the side of Canadian consumers or on the side of oil companies?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, with respect to energy prices, I have said in the House before that the government will monitor and continue to monitor them. In fact, I made an offer to the NDP for a full briefing on the pricing policy. I also suggest that the hon. member take a look, for example, at the Ontario government with respect to increasing taxes. I guess they think that gasoline prices are not high enough. That is a new first policy they have expressed on energy.

Second, when I take a look at their position on consumer gas, they say one thing in opposition, but they are sure open to pricing once they get into government.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, it is Crime Prevention Week, but Canadian women still live in fear.

The tiny town of Iqaluit has experienced three sexual assaults in 10 days. On Canadian campuses, young women have to be escorted between buildings because of the alarming increase in sexual assaults. This government has spent millions publicizing and justifying the GST.

Will the Minister of Justice promise to spend some dollars on a campaign to educate Canadians and to de-escalate violence against women?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, this government has a \$40 million program on family violence that includes the problem of violence against women.

I think the hon. member would agree that this is not a partisan issue. It is one that deeply concerns all of us and requires us to examine fundamental attitudes that have a way of being perpetuated in one of our institutional settings.

One of the things the Department of Justice has been doing is giving strong support to the Canadian Judicial Centre, which has been a pioneer in trying to raise the awareness of those who sit in judgment in our courts on the question of gender bias.