

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, as Deputy Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada I can inform the hon. gentleman that we adopt a perfectly honest but very productive and aggressive fund-raising effort in all parts of the country.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, given that the Government seems to be willing now to bend the rules slightly when it comes to Tory fund raising, and given this new-found interest in political freedom for public servants, can the Deputy Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the question but it should be about government policy.

Mr. Boudria: Can the Deputy Prime Minister tell public servants that he will forthwith introduce legislation to permit full political participation in the political process of the same public servants from whom he is soliciting funds?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I believe that that matter is *sub judice*, but in any event I would remind the hon. gentleman that I and many others throughout the country and in the House of Commons have received letters from his Leader, as they have from the Leader of the New Democratic Party, doing the same kind of thing, a little belatedly, I will admit, as our own Party is doing.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I get copies of Ed Broadbent's letters from all my constituents.

Mr. Deans: Did you send us any money?

Mr. Benjamin: Send money and we will quit writing.

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ENERGY

PETROLEUM AND GAS REVENUE TAX

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Finance because the 21 Alberta Tory MPs in the House are too chicken to defend the interests of the Province of Alberta.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Benjamin: That's parliamentary.

● (1450)

Mr. Speaker: I will permit the question, but I will remind the Member that comments about other Members are not allowed.

Mr. Waddell: Does the Minister of Finance object to the Minister of Energy agreeing tomorrow, at her meeting with Energy Minister Zaozirny of Alberta and Premier Devine of Saskatchewan, to the immediate elimination of the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax on the oil industry?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should draw to the attention of the Hon. Member that the most vigorous support of the Alberta economy, and the oil and gas industry in particular, I have experienced in the House was from Alberta Members of Parliament when they were on that side of the House and also when they are on this side of the House.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The only thing I have heard from the Hon. Member in this regard is a lot of whining, with no positive suggestion being put forward from the other side.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A supplementary question. Just a question.

HEAVY OIL UPGRADER PROJECT

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, is the present Government still committed to federal Government loan guarantees to the heavy oil upgrader project in Lloydminster? There is a positive suggestion for you, Michael.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the positive suggestion of the Hon. Member which was made a number of years ago by someone else. The purpose of the meeting tomorrow is to discuss a wide range of matters relating to the very serious situation which is being experienced in western Canada, particularly in the Province of Alberta. Things related to the oil upgrader will be discussed. However, in response to the Hon. Member's previous comment, I should point out that the major beneficiaries of his first suggestion would be the large multinational companies.

PRICE OF HOME HEATING OIL

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister of Energy wrote to the oil companies many months ago asking them to pass on the lower energy cost to the consumer, and we have seen some reduction at the gas pump. However, why have we not seen the price of home heating oil drop as well, before our tanks are refilled with expensive home heating fuel?