

Oral Questions

glowingly of the alliance of FDR with the guerrilla control group FMLN? If so, has the minister informed Socialist International, perhaps through their vice president who sits in this House, the hon. member for Oshawa, that such help for terrorists is either wittingly or unwittingly—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens:—being delivered, and is certainly ill advised and contrary to our democratic traditions in this country?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, it is too bad the rules of the House do not encourage the putting of questions by the hon. member directly to the hon. member for Oshawa.

An hon. Member: Same party.

Mr. MacGuigan: I am not able to confirm all of the points raised by the hon. member. It is my understanding that the hon. member for Oshawa was chairman of the recent meeting of Socialist International dealing with the El Salvador question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Unbelievable.

• (1450)

Mr. MacGuigan: There was considerable difference in the Socialist International over El Salvador and over Nicaragua, because the parties in these countries which are close neighbours of El Salvador do not take as strong a position as the hon. member for Oshawa has publicly stated.

Madam Speaker, I now have the figures that were asked for earlier by the hon. member for Victoria and I wonder if I might just take a moment, while I am on my feet, to give them.

In 1980, we exported military equipment worth \$5.5 million—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Lotbinière.

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[Translation]

ENERGY

INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC PERCENTAGE OF GASOLINE TAX IS GREATER THAN PERCENTAGE COLLECTED BY ALBERTA

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the present situation in Quebec with respect to gas and gas retailers, many Quebecers are wondering what share of the price of gas at the pump goes to the province of Quebec, and I would therefore like to ask the

minister for details about the percentage collected by the province of Quebec, and whether it is true that the percentage collected by the province is higher than that collected by the province of Alberta.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the difference between the price of a litre of gas in New Brunswick and Ontario and the price of the same litre of gas in Quebec is now approximately seven cents, which means that in Quebec, a litre of gas costs about seven cents more. Regarding the percentage collected by the province of Quebec, it is not only more than that collected by the government of Alberta, it is more or less equal to the sum of the percentages collected by the government of Alberta and the federal government. In March, the government of Quebec was collecting 27.7 per cent on the price of gas, while the government of Alberta and the federal government collected a joint total of 28.2 per cent. Therefore, the government of Quebec is taking a very sizeable share of the price per litre. In fact, this percentage is higher than that taken by any other province in Canada.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

COLLECTION OF DEDUCTIONS AT SOURCE FROM FISHERMEN

Mr. Mel Gass (Malpeque): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. I realize that today may not be a very good day to ask him for favours.

Mr. Nielsen: He is cantankerous?

Mr. Gass: My question to the minister concerns the policy announced by the government of income tax deduction at source as it applies to fishermen, and the fact that the fishermen are the only small independent business persons who are asked to pay income tax in advance when they sell fish to the packers.

We met for two days last week with groups of fishermen from all over Prince Edward Island. Their main concern was income tax deductions at source. I want to ask the minister has there been any recent discussion on the mandatory policy of income tax deductions at source as it applies to fishermen in Atlantic Canada.

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, that is a budget provision. The Minister of Finance announced it in the budget, as you know. The reason for announcing it was that I, among other people, had requested that he review this. The reason I did that was that a request came from the fishermen.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!