

Oral Questions

election promises without suffering any of the fallout that might otherwise be the case?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I can certify that the Chairman of Petro-Canada did not clear his speech with the Minister of Finance and, as far as I know, with no other Minister or Department.

Mr. Crosbie: He is a "hopper" of his own.

Mr. Lalonde: Petro-Canada is a Crown Corporation. It is operating at arm's length from the Government, and the Chairman of Petro-Canada is free to speak his mind on many subjects and he has done this in the past. There is nothing new there. Mr. Hopper came up with a suggestion. I said I would put it in in the "hopper" of suggestions I have received.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, the multi-billion dollar window on the industry does not seem to be serving that purpose. We know that the former Vice-President of Petro-Canada, Joel Bell, had a hand in writing the energy policy. It is safe to assume that the Chairman of Petro-Canada may have a hand in unwriting it.

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY TAX CREDIT

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. With the exception of areas where a current price war exists, Canadian consumers are paying more at the pump for gasoline than are American consumers, even though American consumers are supposed to be paying world price. Will the Minister commit to this House that, should we adopt this suggestion from the billion-dollar-window on the industry to move to world prices, he will, simultaneously, being in an energy tax credit along the lines of that contained in the Crosbie budget of December, 1979, to ensure that low-income Canadians will not have to face the added burden of this increase in crude oil prices on top of the already excessive taxes, including, of course, the tax for Petro-Canada's empire building?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is still indulging in the same old rhetoric, and I am sorry to say that as time goes by, he does not seem to be getting any wiser. I can inform the House Member that his suggestion will be filed with all the other suggestions I have received and it will receive the same serious attention. When the time comes to bring down a budget in this House, the Hon. Member will see how I intend to deal with the matter he has raised.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NICARAGUA

Madam Speaker: I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of a distinguished visitor in the person of Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Madam Speaker: I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of Right Reverend Wayne Smith, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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DISASTERS

SINKING OF "OCEAN RANGER"—MEASURES TO AVOID REPETITION

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. A year ago today the *Ocean Ranger* sank off the East Coast of Canada. Last Wednesday in this House when the Minister was asked by the Hon. Member for Annapolis Valley-Hants whether he could assure the House that the deficiencies found to be part of the cause of the tragedy had been corrected, that the proper safety procedures are being followed, and that the proper equipment for the men on oil rigs is available, the Minister said this:

Madam Speaker, I cannot, and I am sorry about that.

Is that answer of the Minister correct, or can the Minister assure the House that proper safety procedures are being taken, that proper equipment for the men on oil rigs is available, and that the Government has taken steps to avert any repetition of this tragedy?

The answer given in the House last week is an indictment of the Government and of the Minister and, as a result, thousands of people are concerned about the fact that apparently nothing has been done in the last year. What is the Minister's response now? Could he tell the House what has been done, and can the people now rest easy?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, may I tell my hon. friend that the responsibility for rigs comes under the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. I think he is aware of that. Would he accept the proposition that I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to answer the question, because he has been following the matter very closely?