

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

• (1440)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will recall that in the budget speech it was stated that in the event of an acquisition there would be the imposition of a particular tax, and that is how we will propose to finance whatever portion, still undetermined, we would put into this acquisition.

Mr. Crosbie: Madam Speaker, this government is going down the slopes faster than Miss Sorensen went down the slopes. The minister will remember that on January 23 he had an advertisement in the *Scotia Sun* which said, "Vote Liberal and the price will stay down". It has gone up eight times since. Now the minister talks about the ninth time the price of gasoline products will go up. I wonder if the minister will resign, or will he continue to be a living example of hypocrisy and stay here in this House as Minister of Finance.

Madam Speaker: Order. Does the hon. member have a question?

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): He was just clearing his throat.

Mr. Crosbie: My supplementary question to the minister is this: will he reject Mr. Hopper's pleas that he take another \$1.4 billion from the oil consumers of Canada, and will he follow his own election promise and keep the prices down and reverse the last eight price increases?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, the answer to both questions is probably yes.

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RAILWAYS**IMPLEMENTATION OF PROMISE TO DOUBLE TRACK CNR LINE FROM WINNIPEG TO WEST COAST**

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It is exactly one year since the Prime Minister made his famous election promise to double track the CNR from Winnipeg to the Pacific Ocean. I wonder if the Prime Minister would bring the House up to date on the progress he is making with his favourite project, in addition, of course, to the 30 per cent of the line which had already been double tracked before the Prime Minister made his promise.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, knowing his ardent interest in sports, I am sure the hon. member would permit me to preface my answer by saying that in addition to the lady already recognized in the gallery, there are two excellent male speakers—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: Skiers.

Mr. Trudeau:—skiers, and I would be happy to give Your Honour an opportunity to recognize them, unless you want me to do it on your behalf.

Seated in the gallery are Mr. Ken Read, who was the first male skier to win the World Cup—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau:—and Mr. Steve Podborski, who is the current leader of the World Cup men's downhill division.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: As to the question raised by the hon. member, he was kind enough to give me notice of the question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: I am sure he is distressed that his colleagues in his own party are always side-tracked because, as a former distinguished minister of transport himself, he is not used to being put on the sidings as, through the fault of his party, he has been.

An hon. Member: You are not laughing, Joe.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): You were better with skiing, Pierre.

Mr. Clark: Have you got the answer, Pierre?

Madam Speaker: May we have that answer?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, there is some concern opposite.

Mr. Clark: The concern was the Chair's.

Madam Speaker: I was asking the Right Hon. Prime Minister if we could have his answer.

Mr. Clark: No.

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Madam Speaker, in addition to the 30 per cent which was under construction at the time I gave my last answer to the hon. member in the House—that was in April—I want to give more details today. There are three sections to the project. There is the Edmonton to Valemount section.

Mr. Clark: That is Valemount.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): That is like NORAD.

Mr. Trudeau: I am told by the right hon. member that is pronounced Valemount.

Mr. Beatty: Take the train and visit.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I have a lot of time. All the answers are written, so if hon. members want to continue—