

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. MacEachen:** I would be delighted to have that particular revelation, which was not included in the budget statement, some time during this debate. I can tell the hon. member that there is very strict expenditure control in the expenditure plan. During the campaign we made the commitment that we would maintain our expenditures within the trend line of the GNP.

**Mr. Crosbie:** You did not. That is untrue.

**Mr. MacEachen:** That is what over the medium term we precisely intend to do.

**Mr. Clark:** That is not what you said, Allan.

**Mr. MacEachen:** Given that expenditure line, we have succeeded in restraining expenditures generally to the point where we have been able to achieve very significant, major new initiatives.

**Mr. Clark:** This is a new line and a false line, Allan.

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● (1500)

**ENERGY****INQUIRY RESPECTING ROLE OF CANADIAN COMPANIES IN TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT**

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The budget has left incentives like depletion allowance and others for multinational oil companies in the tar sands and the Canadian north, which as the minister knows is really the heart of Canada's energy future. Because of the magnitude of the tar sands, it is estimated that as a result over-all foreign ownership will actually increase from about 82 per cent to 87 per cent shortly. Would the minister tell the House why the budget did not give Petro-Canada and Canadians a more active role in developing the tar sands and the north?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, if my hon. colleague wishes to read carefully "The National Energy Program, 1980", he will find tables in that program in which there are specific figures, which I cannot cover during question period, clearly indicating that on all accounts Canadian companies will be having a very substantial advantage compared to foreign companies, whether they are going to invest in the tar sands or in frontier areas, whether in the north or offshore. Our proposals are to the effect that Canadian companies will benefit extremely well compared to other companies. They will be in a very advantageous situation. I expect that we can cover the specific figures during the debate on the budget.

**Mr. Clark:** You have a lot to be sorry for.

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, a few minutes ago the Minister of Finance said that we should congratulate the government on this ambitious program of Canadianization. It

is the most ambitious since the Liberal throne speech in 1974, and look what we got there—nothing. If we on this side of the House think it is a little phony, I hope the minister will forgive us.

Given the fact that Petro-Canada has tried to buy foreign multinational companies in the recent past and that no one wants to sell to them, is the minister in a position to tell this House whether he is prepared to force the sale of companies and, if so, how is he going to do it?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, first of all I should like to pick up the statement made by the hon. member at the beginning of his second question. Again, I should like to point out to him that there is a whole array of measures to encourage Canadianization of the industry, from direct grants to Canadian industry, which are going to be larger as the proportion of Canadian ownership increases, to a 25 per cent requirement of Canadian ownership that will go to the Government of Canada in terms of the development on Canadian lands in the north and on the offshore. We will require that any development in the north or offshore be at least 50 per cent Canadian-owned. These are only a few of the measures contained in the budget.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Now deal with the question.

**Mr. Lalonde:** As far as the second aspect of the question raised by the hon. member is concerned—now that I have been interrupted by the Leader of the New Democratic Party I have lost the point of his second question.

**An hon. Member:** Petro-Canada.

**Mr. Lalonde:** As far as Petro-Canada is concerned, it has been successful in making two major acquisitions since 1976, as hon. members know. It is true that in the last year it has been more difficult—

**Mr. Broadbent:** Impossible.

**Mr. Lalonde:** —to acquire foreign-owned companies because they tend to believe that the future in Canada is so good that they would not consider selling at any price. I think the clear indication—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I think that answer was a little long.

[*Translation*]

**INQUIRY RESPECTING FUTURE PRICE OF GASOLINE**

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. For the information of consumers, can he say in light of last night's budget what will be the price of a gallon of gas for the years 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1984 as compared with the price which would have resulted from the Progressive Conservative budget of last December?