

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I will certainly make comments at the time. My question is a very critical one, when there is a concern that people are now overtaxed. Will the Minister not rise in her place and tell the people of Canada and Members of the House that the Government does not plan to add more and more taxes as a result of a value added tax or a business transfer tax?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, what we are telling the Canadian people is that our tax system is going to be fair, as it is now.

Some Hon. Members: When?

Mrs. McDougall: We have introduced more fairness measures than any other Government. We are getting control of the deficit. That will bring down interest rates for ordinary Canadians. We will continue to review and improve the tax system as we have done already.

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ENERGY

PRICE OF CRUDE OIL

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Minister's market sensitive system is a disaster. Consumers have received practically no benefit from falling world oil prices. The industry is in such a state of uncertainty that it is going to ask the Government to scrap deregulation and to step in and save it from collapse. When will the Government step in?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am really surprised that the Hon. Member would ask that question. The last time the Government stepped in, it created the National Energy Program which devastated the western economy.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, to use the Minister's own words, she said that such low prices would be "catastrophic" for the industry. What is she planning to do about the catastrophe facing the industry?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think it is quite important that the Hon. Member not add to the hysteria which his Party is generating at this time. If he is referring to the volatility in oil prices, may I point out, as Premier Getty and others have pointed out, that this is a price war. Prices are very volatile, and we do not know where they will stabilize.

Oral Questions

● (1425)

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Supplemental to that last question, Mr. Speaker, why has the Minister not required the 10 cent per litre reduction at the pump which ought to have flowed through because Canadian crude oil has decreased from \$37 a barrel since December to today's price in Canadian funds of \$18 a barrel? Why has the Minister not required that 10 cent a litre reduction at the pumps?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I noted with great interest that my hon. friend across the way was on television last night advocating that we should be increasing prices to producers and reducing prices to consumers. If that is the kind of fantasy land the Member is living in, I wish him well.

Mr. Crosbie: Fantasy Island.

ADMINISTERED PRICE SUGGESTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister agree that it is possible to give the motorist a real break also to save the jobs in the industry by considering an administered price for oil?

Why is the Minister sitting over there fiddling when both the motorist and the Province of Alberta right now are burning?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think if the Hon. Member feels that the industry would prefer a choice between his policies and our policies, he should know that the policies that would be chosen are ours.

Mr. Waddell: That is not what we hear these days.

Mr. Deans: We will see all those oil rigs leaving Canada again.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: They are not going to go to Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please, Members and House Leaders.

[Translation]

REDUCTION IN OIL PRICES—ATTITUDE OF MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES—MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, my question as well is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Oil prices have gone down 60 per cent in the past four months, from \$30 to \$12 U.S. a barrel. Consumers in the United States have long since been benefiting from this reduction, yet in Canada the decrease has been a mere 2 cents a litre.