

explain that if we paid such a high price for the Roumanian oil it was because it was part of the agreement with his company that we could not have any Caribbean oil if we were not ready to pay this price for five million gallons of Roumanian oil.

BROKERAGE FEES PAID TO CANADIAN FUEL MARKETERS ON OIL PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Supply and Services. Can the minister indicate what brokerage fees were paid to Canadian Fuel Marketers as brokers in this particular transaction?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, actually we did not pay any fees to this company for the Caribbean oil. We paid 1½ per cent for the Roumanian oil. The average fee in the trade is 2 per cent, so this was a very good agreement under the then prevailing circumstances.

GASOLINE AND HOME HEATING OIL—INTENTION OF COMPANIES TO RAISE PRICE FOR REASONS OTHER THAN INCREASE IN CRUDE PRICE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of the fact that some oil companies have announced that they intend to raise the price of gasoline and home heating fuel by two cents a gallon for reasons other than the increase in the price of crude. What companies have informed the minister of their intention in this regard, what amount of increase do they intend to impose on the consuming public, and has the minister concurred in these decisions?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I have not concurred in any decision with regard to any price increase because of other costs. Perhaps I could give the hon. gentleman the details in committee this afternoon. I do not have them with me.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact the minister said last Friday, as recorded on page 980 of *Hansard*, that it was estimated that any such increase for reasons other than the increase in the price of crude oil ought to be in the neighbourhood of half a cent per gallon, and as the minister has said that the government does not intend to scrutinize these price increases prior to their being imposed, does this mean that the two cents per gallon increase will be permitted and that the government may look into this matter later and decide what action it will take, if any?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we will expect to see the facts in this regard from the companies. Of course, if there is an increase beyond that justified by the facts, the companies, in turn, would lose this in the form of compensation for offshore payments.

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister frankly whether it is not apparent that, even though last Friday he assured the House that, despite statements by the oil

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companies that they were going to raise prices west of the Ottawa valley by 10 cents per gallon and east of the Ottawa valley by 5 cents a gallon, the increases would be only 8 cents and 3 cents, actually the increases will be 10 cents and 5 cents except that they are cutting off the dog's tail by inches rather than in one fell swoop?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I indicated to the House what our estimate was. Of course, the companies will have to come forward and establish the facts on which they seek to increase prices.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for York-Simcoe and then the hon. member for Champlain.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services and is supplementary to my leader's question. Can the minister indicate—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I thought the hon. member wanted to ask a supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands. In fairness, I think the Chair should recognize first the hon. member for Champlain.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

POSSIBILITY OF REVISION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN VIEW OF REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the results of the government linguistic policy are hardly satisfactory and since the findings of the annual report of the Commissioner of Official Languages are rather disappointing, is the Prime Minister considering a review of the government policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in my opinion the first step would be to obtain the support of the Social Credit Party of Canada for that policy. The member is not very well placed to complain about the inefficiency of our measures, because he did not support them in due time.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister, who seems to blame us for something, whether he is prepared to discuss our realistic proposals made in the House, but which were not carried out even if they were practical. Since the solutions suggested by the government seem inefficient, is he prepared to consider ours?