

Adjournment Debate

● (1825)

The capacity of the remaining three Quebec refineries is approximately equal to the 1985 Quebec demand. Moreover, demand in Quebec for petroleum products is projected to decline over the next few years, as I have said. Any requirement for temporary additional supply could be met by other means: exchanges, inventory drawdown, product imports from offshore or other provinces.

Furthermore, there is no reason that a particular region or province must be self-sufficient in petroleum products. Other provinces, such as P.E.I., Newfoundland, Manitoba, and certain regions in the United States—New York with a population of 15 million people—do not have refineries and rely completely on supplies from external sources.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) remains firm in the view that current and future petroleum product supply projections for Quebec are accurate. But, as with any economic analysis, there will be differences.

When initially responding to this question in the House, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) stressed that the Government of Canada is committed to protecting the interests of Quebec consumers at all times. I want to reiterate that commitment. However, I would also like to impress upon the Hon. Member that no shortage exists.

Furthermore, the Hon. Member can be assured that with reduced petroleum product demand in Quebec, and Quebec's improved access under deregulation to competitively priced offshore product imports, the province is well supplied now and for the foreseeable future. In addition, the deregulation of natural gas and the abundance of electricity in the province of Quebec ensure that Quebec's energy future is secure.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Therefore this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6.28 p.m.