

difference between 13.5 per cent and 7 per cent. My colleague, the Minister of Finance, mentioned earlier that a number of large corporations have already done so: GM, Ford and, more recently, Sears. We intend to set up a mechanism, and I intend to make an announcement within the next few weeks, that will provide for price monitoring. The information will be collected, and we will ensure that the difference between 13.5 per cent and 7 per cent is actually passed on to the consumer. It is our responsibility as a government, and we will do everything in our power to ensure this is done.

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• (1450)

CANADA POST

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canada Post Corporation.

Canada Post recently established Admail, a private flyer distribution service that undercuts collective agreements and competes directly with Quebec's regional weeklies in this area.

Could the minister promise the House today that he will put an end to this unfair competition by Canada Post which is a threat to the survival of the weekly press in Quebec and French Canada?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, Canada Post has been involved in the business of distributing advertising material for over 100 years, this is not a new activity. It is a highly competitive activity. There are several organizations involved in distributing advertising mail, including newspapers, door-to-door.

I am told that in Quebec, Canada Post represents about 19 per cent of the market, so 81 per cent of the market is handled by private distributors. Were Canada Post to quit the business, it would not necessarily end competition.

I do not feel it would be advisable to ask Canada Post to quit, since this House has asked them to go out and

operate in a businesslike fashion in the business of distributing hard copy, if you will, and this is part of it.

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ENERGY

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and it concerns the activities of Petro-Canada in Myanmar.

As the minister knows, Petro-Canada International, the development arm of Petro-Canada, has withdrawn from this country because of human rights violations but Petro-Canada itself continues to operate a \$22 million oil drilling contract. Given the contradiction between having one agency withdraw because of human rights violations and the other agency, the parent company, continue, will the minister undertake to tell the House whether or not he will instruct Petro-Canada itself to withdraw from this project?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. As he knows, the present agreement was signed between Petro-Canada International and now Myanmar, in 1988, prior to the present military government coming into power. Only recently did the contract reach the implementation stage.

I have been informed that for the present, Petro-Canada International has decided to suspend the program. The government supports that decision. In fact, I want to tell the hon. member and the House that we have urged the company to review its activities there, in light of the deteriorating human rights and political situation that is now evident.

Mr. David Walker (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister and I appreciate his response on this issue.

Given that this Crown corporation is involved in several parts of the world, can the minister assure us that he will undertake a review of several programs to make sure that these human rights violations, and the countries where we are concerned about this, are related to our External Affairs policy, to make sure that we do not get involved with countries where we are concerned about human rights?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer fully for the hon. member. He is well aware that Petro-Canada International gets its funding through External Affairs. It