

*Oral Questions*

[English]

## REASONS FOR STATEMENT

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** Madam Speaker, maybe I could be more precise. Is one of the reasons for the statement tonight that consumers today are paying 10 to 20 cents more per gallon for gasoline than consumers in the United States? Is it because the goal of self-sufficiency by 1990 has gone out the window? Is it because Canadian-owned oil and gas companies are struggling along today in the position where they are hardly able to survive? Finally, is it because so many jobs have been lost in the manufacturing industry because of the disastrous energy policy which the minister introduced in 1980? Are those the reasons for the statement on motions tonight?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I understand that my hon. friend is no longer the energy critic for the opposition. It shows in his question that he has lost touch with the facts. First of all, the average price of gasoline in Canada today is still lower than it is in the United States.

**Mr. Thomson:** That is not true.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** Try the truth for a change.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Secondly, the price for heating oil in Canada is lower by as much as 7 cents per litre than it is in the United States.

Third, the price of natural gas in Canada is very significantly lower than it is in the United States.

These are the facts that the Conservatives, with their blinders on, refuse to see and refuse to notice.

As far as the other points raised by the hon. member are concerned, if he were still energy critic he would realize that Canadians have made great progress in the conservation of energy. This has meant that the objective of self-sufficiency today is clearer and more achievable in 1990 than it was in October, 1980, or than it was when the Conservatives were in office—

**Madam Speaker:** Order please. The hon. member for Brant.

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, there was a fourth question.

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## AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

## CANADIAN CONTENT IN JAPANESE MANUFACTURED VEHICLES

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In a few days time he will be in Versailles and will have an opportunity to have a discussion, face to face, with Premier Suzuki of Japan. The Minister of State for International Trade failed to get an 85 per cent

Canadian content in Japanese automobiles and trucks coming into Canada. I ask the Prime Minister very simply, will he screw up his courage and demand that Premier Suzuki make sure that, within one year to 18 months, 85 per cent of the part content of Japanese cars and trucks will be manufactured here in Canada?

• (1425)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am happy to take notice of the question.

## STEPS TAKEN BY AUSTRALIA

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, while the Prime Minister is taking notice of the question, will he keep in mind that Australia, which also exports a great deal of raw materials to Japan, has very effectively imposed a 57 per cent tariff on all Japanese automobiles and trucks, as well as the 85 per cent content requirement? Will he remind Premier Suzuki of the Australian deal with Japan?

**Mr. Paproski:** Take him on a motorcycle.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I—that is a very serious question in spite of the hon. member for Edmonton North trying to devalue it. Madam Speaker, I will take notice of that question too.

## REQUEST FOR EMBARGO ON IMPORTATION OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURED VEHICLES

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Madam Speaker, I notice the Prime Minister is in a very noticing way today. While he is at it, will he assure this House—and I think he can answer this question without going to Versailles—that if all else fails, if the Japanese refuse to source up to 85 per cent here in Canada, he will unilaterally impose a 15 per cent embargo on all Japanese cars and trucks until they do agree to source here in Canada up to 85 per cent?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, one of the purposes of the Summit will be to try collectively to avoid returning to the kind of beggar-thy-neighbor policies which ruined the western industrialized societies in the 1930s. So rather than promise to take that kind of protectionist attitude without further discussions, my answer would be that I would not want to give that undertaking.

## APPLICATION OF NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO JAPANESE IMPORTS

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of State for International Trade I will direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, having to do with the non-tariff barriers now being imposed on Japanese automobile imports. The guerrilla tactics adopted by the government are an amateurish and chicken-hearted reaction to the minister's