

## QUERY RESPECTING SPECIFIC PROJECTS

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, I think the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce knows that the international shipbuilding industry is heavily subsidized by national governments, and there is a real question of whether our Canadian shipbuilding industry can carry on without help from the government. I want to know more specifically what the government is willing to do about specific projects, like the new Canadian National marine ferry that is to be constructed, and what assistance it is going to give to the shipbuilding industry to aid in the construction of icebreaking vessels to open up the Arctic—which is part of the government's program in terms of the energy policy.

**Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Madam Speaker, we recognize the importance of the shipbuilding and ship repair industry to the Canadian economy generally, and to a number of areas of our country specifically. Just in the past year or so, we have taken some very important actions to help that industry. There is our support for the expansion of the Saint John Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Saint John, New Brunswick. There is the very substantial support to enable the expansion and updating of the Halifax shipyards in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We will be making announcements, as time goes on, about our further measures of assistance and support to recognize the capacity for productive activity of the workers and management in our Canadian industry.

\* \* \*

## FINANCE

## TAX ON FUEL USED IN PRODUCTION OF FOOD

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Some time ago he gave assurance to my colleague, the member for Vegreville, that his government would be looking at removing some portion of the 60 cents a gallon tax this government takes on fuel used in the agricultural production of food. Has the minister had an opportunity to look at this?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Yes, Madam Speaker.

● (1500)

**Mr. McKnight:** Madam Speaker, people in the farming industry will certainly appreciate that answer.

## REQUEST THAT TAX BE REMOVED

**Mr. Bill McKnight (Kindersley-Lloydminster):** Madam Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has complimented the two provinces which have removed their taxes on gasoline. Those two provinces are Saskatchewan and Alberta. Will this government do equally as well and remove

## Petitions

taxes on the production of food? That would benefit not only to the agricultural community but also the consumers of Canada who now have to pay for this grab by the federal government.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** No, Madam Speaker, it is not my intention to announce the tax changes suggested by the hon. member.

\* \* \*

## PETITIONS

## TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table reports of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Tuesday, June 1, 1982, and finds that the petitions meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

## PETITIONS

## MR. SIDDON—PARKING LOT EMPLOYEES AT VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Thomas Siddon (Richmond-South Delta):** Madam Speaker, it is my duty and privilege to table a petition on behalf of the employees of Canpark Services at Vancouver International Airport. This petition arises out of a recent decision taken by the Ministry of Transport to reject the lowest and all bids for the provision of parking lot attendant services at Vancouver International Airport, a decision which led to the heartless termination this week of employment for 20 persons including a number of new Canadians and middle-aged women supporting unemployed or handicapped husbands and their children. These employees have given dedicated service to the public at Vancouver International Airport for as long as ten years in some cases.

The petition recommends that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) be urged by this House to grant the parking lot employees at Vancouver International Airport a minimum six-month extension of work at the airport or that the minister arrange alternative employment for them in these difficult times so that they may continue to support their dependent families.

## MR. ROBINSON (BURNABY)—OAKALLA, B.C.—CONSTRUCTION OF PRISON FACILITIES

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I have the honour and the duty to present a petition on behalf of