

Oral Questions

amendment, once in the committee and once again in the House. On both these occasions the Prime Minister's Party and the NDP rejected that amendment.

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AMENDMENT

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, if the Prime Minister is not prepared to provide us with a draft tomorrow—that is an “if”—for discussion at our regular caucus, will he accept the amendment that we introduced both in committee and in the House of Commons?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I will provide the Hon. Member with a draft by tomorrow. I will try to make sure that he gets it by tonight. I wish I would also hear the Leader of the Opposition say that if that draft is in the spirit of the 1960 Charter of Rights he will undertake, on behalf of his Party, to join us to seek a House order to have that resolution passed in one day.

That is what is always lacking in the question of the Hon. Member—any undertaking by his party to do anything except try to push the Government, but it never sticks its own commitment out. I would like to see it.

DRAFT OF TEXT PRESENTED TO PREMIERS

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): This smacks a little like the Minister of Justice wanting us to pass a Human Rights Act without even reading it and then, once having read it, without debating it.

The Prime Minister has undertaken to provide us with that draft. For that I thank him. Once we have looked at that draft and confirmed that it is indeed the same as the one that was presented to the Premiers, we will then bring him our decision.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, we will expect to hear that decision tomorrow during Question Period.

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PETRO-CANADA

ACQUISITION OF BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY—
INVESTIGATION OF TAKEOVER

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I will direct my question to the Acting Minister who, I presume, is the Minister of State for Mines. Last fall, prior to Petro-Canada's takeover of BP Canada Limited, there was evidence of prior knowledge by a person or persons because of the exceptional interest in BP Canada's stock which moved from \$26 to \$36 in the few weeks prior to the takeover by Petro-Canada.

In response, the Ontario Securities Commission froze the funds and accounts of brokers who had traded in BP stock. As of April 7 of this year, some six months after the fact,

approximately \$1 million has not been claimed even though all that is required for people to do so is to come forward and identify that the money belongs to them. This seems to indicate that somebody has something to hide.

Considering the fact that Petro-Canada, a Crown corporation with a federal charter, is involved in this, and that the possibility exists that someone associated with Petro-Canada, or their friends or relatives, may have leaked information or benefited from it, has the federal Government instituted an investigation of its own into this situation?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, I must confess that I know nothing of the matter, but I shall take the question under advisement and get back to the Hon. Member.

OTTAWA BROKERAGE HOUSE ORDERS FOR CALL OPTIONS

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, perhaps the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources might also bear in mind and investigate the situation where one of the largest trades was in the form of call options through a brokerage house here in Ottawa. In advance of the BP takeover, someone here in Ottawa placed an exceptionally large order for call options which have the largest leverage for the potential investor. That would indicate that someone was very lucky or had prior knowledge. Would the Minister commit that that specific situation will be investigated by the Government?

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State (Mines)): Madam Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that I shall bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF THE PREMIER OF BERMUDA, MR.
JOHN SWAN

Madam Speaker: I have the honour of drawing the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in our gallery of the Premier of Bermuda, Mr. John Swan.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF ZAIRE COMMISSIONER OF STATE
FOR THE ECONOMY, FOR INDUSTRY, AND FOR EXTERNAL
COMMERCE

Madam Speaker: I would also like to draw the attention of Hon. Members to the presence in our gallery of Mr. Nyembo