

Mr. Lalonde: I refer to *Hansard* of November 13, 1978, where the member for Calgary Centre, the member for York-Simcoe, the member for Northumberland-Durham—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Madam Speaker: Order!

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN PRICE OF FUEL—EFFECT ON CONSUMERS

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Given the fact that the price of gasoline at the pumps during the year 1980 rose approximately 32½ cents per gallon—I am not using the metric smokescreen of litres; the price went up approximately 32½ cents a gallon during the year 1980, which is just an estimate, it may be higher—and given the fact there is the prospect of at least another 12 cents a gallon increase at the pumps, and a similar increase for home heating fuel, as a result of this acquisition of Petrofina by Petro-Canada, can the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs tell me where his concern for the consumer is now? Does the minister have anything to say to the consumer about these increases?

[*Translation*]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to remind the hon. member that it is fortunate that Canadian consumers do not have to put up with a Conservative government, because oil prices would be much higher than they are now.

[*English*]

REQUEST FOR INTRODUCTION OF ENERGY TAX CREDIT

Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): When Canadian consumers see what they must now pay for gasoline as they drive into the service stations and what they must pay for home heating fuel, I think they would much prefer a Conservative government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister of State for Finance. Since Canadian consumers are being faced with this tax to aid in financing this acquisition, and since the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has hinted at further deals similar to the one with Petrofina, which apparently was just for openers—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. Scott (Hamilton-Wentworth): —is the minister now prepared to consider and, indeed, introduce an energy tax credit for lower and middle-income Canadians?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussi eres (Minister of State (Finance)): Madam Speaker, I remind hon. members that this measure, the energy tax credit proposed by the former Minister of Finance, was intended to offset the basic inequity contained in his budget and reflected in energy prices as well as in an 18-cent direct tax payable by consumers. Since the measures that we have proposed are fair and the prices generous towards all Canadians, we do not have to offset this by a tax credit such as the one suggested by the hon. member.

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[*English*]

FISHERIES

FRASER RIVER, B.C.—PROPOSALS CONCERNING CLOSURE

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I have a straightforward question for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. At a meeting I attended last Thursday in Vancouver, held by the Fraser River fishermen and others, it was made abundantly clear that the minister had not consulted them prior to initiating this drastic proposal concerning the closure of the Fraser River and other restrictions to commercial fishermen. Will the minister assure me and all members in this House from British Columbia that he will consult with the Fraser River gill-net fishermen this week before there is any decision on the part of the government to implement these drastic proposals concerning the Fraser?

Hon. Rom eo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, if the member would read the answer which I gave with respect to this matter yesterday, she would see these were, in fact, discussions which took place. There is a process in the British Columbia fishery called "the expectations for the coming year". We discuss with fishermen's groups what appears to be the promise of this or that fishery in this or that river. This is a normal process which has been going on for many years.

With respect to chinook stocks in the Fraser, which are badly depleted, we have been taking conservation measures. We have announced some of these measures. I made it clear yesterday that if there are to be strict measures implemented, then all groups in the fishery must share, and in this I include the sport fishery as well.

● (1440)

Miss Jewett: Madam Speaker, my question concerned the desirability of the minister himself, not his officials, meeting with the Fraser River fishermen. It is not good enough that he speak to a chamber of commerce because very few fishermen belong to that organization. Before the minister again, without any notice or warning, imposes further restrictions on what is