

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Crosbie:** What a profile.

**Mr. Whelan:** He only wishes that he could be identified so well with a hat of any kind, or without one as far as that goes. He only wishes to be known so well not only in Canada but all over the world. The green hat was given to me by a group of farmers in western Canada—and to wear also. They told me: “Mr. Whelan, you wear that, because green is a sign of growth, green is a sign of hope, green is a sign of prosperity, green is a sign of money, and green is for the Irish too.”

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** And green is the sign of rot.

**Mr. McDermid:** And green is the sign of old cheese.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES**

DESCRIPTION ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He recently told a television interviewer that we would not catch him not doing his job. We would be grateful to catch him in his seat.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** Discipline him, Pierre.

**Miss Carney:** The Minister recently told the CBC program entitled *The Journal* that the energy ministry was in a turmoil when he took it over a year and a half ago. Turmoil was his description, Mr. Speaker.

We are aware of the turmoil created by the National Energy Program, the suspension of drilling, the loss of jobs, and the collapse of the market in that area, but we have never had the Minister acknowledge that these policies of the Liberal Government created turmoil. Could the Minister please elaborate on the nature and the degree of the turmoil he found when he took the Department over from his predecessor, the current Minister of Finance?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I can see that Members on the other side are very worried that we are having a good leadership race, and they know now they are going to lose the election. I forgive the hon. lady for her nervousness.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** I think the answer was lack of communication, because at that time there had been a difficult agreement

negotiated between the provinces and the federal Government and we had to explain policy. After that we were in Alberta dealing with the provincial Government and the industry, explaining the policy and why we needed self-sufficiency, security of supply, and Canadianization. They understood that our policy was so good—

**Mr. Crosbie:** Why didn't Lalonde do that?

**Mr. Chrétien:**—and now, after the many months the Hon. Member has been my critic, she has not been at all able to come up with anything better than the energy policy that we gave to the Canadian people.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

EXPORT PRICE OF NATURAL GAS

**Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I can only assure him that we expect to relieve him of his duties after the next election.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss Carney:** The Minister also said in *The Journal* interview:

Tell me where there is a problem in energy today.

I ask the Minister whether he considers no problem his failure to deal with the natural gas pricing situation so that we are only exporting 40 per cent of our contracts, his failure to reach an agreement with Newfoundland, and his failure to reduce the financial outflow under the PIP grants which are already \$400 million over budget this year. Is the Minister really telling this House that none of these are problems?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member should know that in a few months I will not be Minister of Energy because I will be Prime Minister.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** I can assure the Hon. Member that I will have a very good Minister of Energy, because I have a lot of friends on this side who will be happy to serve in that capacity. They all know, as the Opposition knows, that we have made a lot of progress. For example, on the pricing of natural gas the movement made last summer was undertaken in agreement with the industry and the Government of Alberta. That was an agreement with the provincial Government and the industry. I say to the Hon. Member, ask the Hon. Member in front of her who was Prime Minister for seven months. He could not do anything with the Government of Alberta. It needed the Liberal Government to make an agreement with the Government of Alberta.