

*Oral Questions*

some action. What action is the Minister prepared to take now to protest and counter this insult to him and this country?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, imagine the hon. gentleman talking about a trade war. This is the representative of a Party whose Leader, if elected as Prime Minister, is going to go to Washington and tell the President, "I'm down here to tear down the free trade agreement", as compared to the Leader of the Liberal Party who is going down to tear up the agreement.

Following that the President will say to new Prime Minister Broadbent, "Too bad, Mr. Prime Minister, I just tore up the Auto Pact". Then we will see what kind of a trade war there is.

**Mr. Broadbent:** You've already done it. You've already torn it up.

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, it is Tories who go to Washington to pass messages. Any message we pass would be from Ottawa to the United States.

[Translation]

## AMERICANS' AMENDMENTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, there are many changes in the U.S. Bill which are not in the free trade agreement. Will this Government proceed with its Bill despite these unilateral changes?

[English]

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman talks about changes. What about the New Democratic Party message? Last Wednesday the Leader of the New Democratic Party gave the message that he was saying aye, aye to the Leader of the Liberal Party, that the Senate should be called in in an undemocratic way to stop the free trade legislation which might be passed by a majority in this House.

Then on Friday the message from the Leader of the New Democratic Party was that that would be totally undemocratic, and the New Dinosaur Party is never undemocratic.

Those were two different messages in three days from the Leader of the New Democratic Party, and the hon. gentleman has the gall to criticize the Americans for not being consistent. Go look in the mirror!

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[Translation]

## ENERGY

## QUEBEC—GASOLINE TAXES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

An analysis of documents from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources proves beyond a doubt that Quebec drivers now pay 2.5 cents more per litre of gas, compared with November 1987. The reason is not the increase of 23 cents per gallon, which the Conservatives introduced. It isn't the escalator tax either. It is simply because the multinational oil companies failed to pass on the drop in the price of oil per barrel, which in November was selling for \$26.20 and is now selling for \$19.57.

My question is: Would the Deputy Prime Minister ask the directors of Petro-Canada to do its Quebec shareholders the courtesy of reducing the price per litre in Quebec by 2.5 cents, so that Quebecers will get a fair deal?

[English]

**Mr. Jack Shields (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for his question but I think he has his facts all wrong.

**An Hon. Member:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Shields:** You might listen and learn something.

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

● (1440)

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

**Mr. Shields:** The prices that the hon. gentleman is talking about are the very stable gas prices in the Montreal area as compared to the volatile prices that have existed in Toronto and western Canada, where price wars have been going on for the past six or eight months.

If the hon. gentleman would look at it fairly, he would understand that the average does not come out properly because of the price wars in western Canada and the volatility in the Toronto market.

[Translation]

## REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF PETROLEUM COMPANIES

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary does not know what he is talking about. So I will direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Since all oil companies in Quebec seem to be in agreement not to lower the price of gasoline at the pump, while the price of crude oil has greatly decreased, and since there seems to be collusion among the various oil companies in Quebec to overcharge Quebec drivers 2.5 cents a litre, is the Minister prepared to ask his Department, which is responsible for anti-trust cases, to investigate why Quebecers are unfairly treated?

[English]

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, if there is a cartel and the companies are getting together to fix prices, they are committing a criminal offence. I would ask the Hon. Member to pass that