

Some hon. Members: This year.

Mr. Trudeau: That is what we said during the campaign, and that is what we said in the Speech from the Throne; and that is what will happen in this Parliament.

An hon. Member: Do I hear 17 cents?

Mr. Trudeau: I haven't changed what I said on the 32 cents, either, because if the hon. member calculated it he would find that an increase of \$9 a barrel, when translated into a gallon of gasoline, is 32 cents. That is why, when I made a demonstration for \$9, half of which is \$4.50, it was a demonstration which was equally good for the 32 cents. Thirty-two cents is composed of 18 cents, being the excise tax, and 16 cents, being the increase at the wellhead.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: Where is your arithmetic?

Madam Speaker: Order please.

An hon. Member: It is 34.

EXCISE TAX ON FUELS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): The Minister of Energy has been shouting from his seat that the undertaking of the Liberal party during the election campaign not to increase the excise tax was an undertaking which would apply to this year only.

Can the Prime Minister confirm that when he made his firm commitment to the people of Canada during the election campaign, he really intended to say there would not be an excise tax increase in 1980 but there would be one later on? Did he simply forget to tell the people that he intended to sock an excise tax increase to Canadians after the calendar year 1980?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I did not forget to tell the people, as the Leader of the Opposition puts it. The decision was that we would not reintroduce the Tory budget with the 18-cent excise tax, and that is the commitment which the Speech from the Throne will deliver.

Mr. Clark: Is it the intention of the government—I pose this question to either the Prime Minister or the Minister of Energy—to propose an increase in the excise tax next year or in subsequent years?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Madam Speaker, that has never been our intention. What we will do next year or the year after will depend on many things.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Since it depends on many things we cannot formulate any intention in that regard. It will depend on the price we negotiate with the producing provinces; it will depend

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on the budget which in that year the Minister of Finance wants to bring down.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: My last question, Madam Speaker, is directed to the Minister of Energy. Why was he shouting across the floor of the House, trying to prompt his leader that the commitment which was given applied only to this year? Why did he shout across the floor of the House "Not this year"?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, my leader does not need any prompting.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: It seems that members on the other side still want to prompt their leader further, Madam Speaker. As to the question raised by the right hon. member, I would remind him that during the last campaign the Prime Minister was asked repeatedly by the press and other people about the principle of the excise tax, and he indicated repeatedly that we would not reintroduce the odious 18-cent excise tax which the Conservatives had put in their budget. That was a clear statement of commitment. Moreover, questions were specifically put to him at the time about the principle of an excise tax. He indicated that we had introduced a 7-cent excise tax, so the principle of an excise tax is not one which this government had refused.

I see the Leader of the New Democratic Party losing his cool again. I suggest he wait for the answer. He will have his opportunity. The Prime Minister, during the last election campaign, stated that as far as the future was concerned this was a matter which would have to be looked into at that time. But the principle of an excise tax was already in the books and it was a matter which would be decided eventually in the future.

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AGRICULTURE

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMS WITH PROVINCIAL MINISTERS

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Because few provinces are putting in top loading programs in the livestock industry, and in order that we may show the leadership he speaks at great length about, would the hon. gentleman call together all the ministers of agriculture and discuss with them the provincial programs and give some federal direction in this area?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. member did not want to create the impression that all provincial ministers of agriculture are in favour of top loading. Some of them are definitely against it. I am sure he is aware of my feelings against it. I do not believe in it because it creates inequity in the agricultural industry for