

*Oral Questions*

crucial to its receiving \$1.5 billion from the United States Government. Does the Minister believe that Chrysler should say thank you to Canadians in a concrete way by putting some of its new parts production in Canada rather than putting all of it in Korea?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, again in reply to the Hon. Member, surely he would agree that the turnaround as far as Chrysler is concerned has been one of the more encouraging things that has occurred. I would only say that if there is a thank you to be given, I have no objection to expressing general satisfaction in a company that has turned around as sensationally as Chrysler.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## USE OF LOW SULPHUR CANADIAN COAL

**Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. U.S. coal imported into Canada has a 5 per cent sulphur content, whereas Canadian coal has a sulphur content of only one-half of 1 per cent. Is the Government working toward increasing the volume of Canadian coal used in Canada, thus decreasing acid rain and providing jobs for Canadians?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his question. He will be pleased to know that a few months ago we drafted a commercial evaluation pilot project for transporting low sulphur content coal to meet the needs of Ontario Hydro.

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**TOURISM**

## REQUEST THAT GASOLINE PRICES NOT BE INCREASED

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Tourism). Two weeks ago the Minister told me in the House in reply to a comment that a gasoline price increase drives tourists away that—

[*English*]

We... do not believe that factors like gasoline prices, taxes on alcohol... should be looked at separately.

[*Translation*]

As we recall, Mr. Speaker, the Government did raise the price of gasoline last November 8, as it did the alcohol tax, the airport tax, the national parks entrance fee, the fares on ferryboats, just to mention a few. Taken separately, all those services which bear directly on tourism cost more. Can the Minister assure the tourist industry that at least one of those

services, namely gasoline, will be spared and that there will be no gasoline price increase in the May Budget?

[*English*]

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of State (Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic, if not passing strange, that any Hon. Member in the Liberal Party would, by implication, lecture anyone of the subject of gasoline prices.

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

**Mr. McMillan:** The Hon. Member will recall that his Party won an election in February, 1980, on a firm commitment to keep gasoline prices down. At that time the price of leaded gasoline was 23.9 cent per litre. Within the term of that Government's mandate, because of federal policies, taxes, and programs, the price of leaded gasoline was allowed to increase to 45 cents per litre.

In response to the Hon. Member's question, let me say that I know the Minister of Finance is very sensitive to the interests of the tourism industry and the interests of consumers. Indeed, a few days ago he met with the senior executive of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada. I think that is the first time such a meeting was held between a Minister of Finance and TIAC. The members of that association went away from that meeting very happy indeed.

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[*Translation*]

**ENERGY**

## PRICE OF GASOLINE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent):** All I am doing, Mr. Speaker, is repeating the representations or criticisms of his colleagues when they were in Opposition. Believe me, they never missed an opportunity to mention the price of gasoline. Will the Minister support the CAA's request to the Minister of Finance that he go as far as reducing gasoline prices in his forthcoming Budget? Does the Minister endorse that request?

[*English*]

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of State (Tourism)):** Mr. Speaker, I have made many representations to the Minister of Finance on behalf of the organization to which the Hon. Member made reference, and on behalf of other large associations within the tourism industry. I know that the Minister of Finance, having previously been a Minister of Tourism, is sensitive to those interests. Even the Hon. Member will be happy with the Budget when it is brought down.