

or did he not have the integrity and the courage to pick up the hot line?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that kind of question ought not to be dignified with any answer. However, I will tell my hon. friend that I have already responded to that question put in proper perspective by other Members of the House on earlier occasions.

* * *

ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and is about gasoline prices. Could the Minister tell the House why, when the price of crude oil goes dramatically down, it takes 60 to 90 days for the consumer to feel it at the pump, but when it goes up slightly the consumer gets hosed at the pump? Could the Minister tell us why that happens?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to understand the source of the Member's question. As he well knows, gasoline prices have fallen across the country by an average of 10 cents a litre. They dropped another 2 or 3 cents a litre in Montreal. I understand that they have gone up in other areas, which shows that the market is dictating the cost of gasoline.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my source is Bob Runciman, the Tory critic in the Ontario Legislature. Does the Minister agree with Mr. Runciman who yesterday criticized the Ontario Liberal Energy Minister for being conned by the oil companies and called for a full public inquiry into the price of gasoline at the pump in Canada?

● (1440)

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative MPP involved was, I am informed, simply reading back to the Liberal Government the position they had taken in a campaign.

* * *

NATIONAL PARKS

INSURANCE DIFFICULTIES OF COMPANIES PROVIDING SERVICES

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon—Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment who is also responsible for Parks Canada. One local business, a boat rental agency, cannot yet open in Riding Mountain due to its inability to get liability insurance. In light of that, can the

Oral Questions

Minister explain what avenues his Department will pursue to ensure that the much desired private sector companies will be able to offer service to anyone who visits a national park this summer?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has put his finger on a very serious problem, both for the private sector interests which are providing the relevant services, and for the public for whom the services are extended. I am working hand-in-glove with my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Justice, on four or five options that we are looking at on an urgent basis. I must say our sense of urgency is heightened by the pressure the Hon. Member is putting on all concerned.

* * *

[Translation]

RAILWAYS

POSSIBLE CLOSURE OF CN SHOPS IN MONCTON

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport.

[English]

The Minister of Transportation for the Province of New Brunswick recently said in the New Brunswick Legislature that the federal Minister of Transport had given him assurances last winter that the CN shops in Moncton were not in danger of being closed in the foreseeable future. Is that statement fact or fiction? Did the Minister give those assurances to the provincial Minister?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is clearly aware that this is an issue that CN has been wrestling with for quite some time as part of a survey of its maintenance shops right across the country. There will have to be some adjustment and rationalization and consolidation. When a decision is finally agreed to and taken to the board and management of CN, I will be in a position to respond in a more appropriate fashion.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland—Kent): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister please answer my question. Did he give assurances to the provincial Minister of Transportation that the jobs in Moncton would be protected?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have said on a number of occasions that there would not be, I would hope, any massive lay-offs. What we are trying to do is work towards the maintenance of the largest number of employees possible under any adjustment or rationalization.