

Point of Order—Mr. Gauthier

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Conservative Caucus bragged that they managed to stop the two-cent increase in postal rates announced by one of our Crown corporations, Canada Post. Meanwhile, another Crown corporation, Petro-Canada, raised the price of gas on the Quebec market by two cents a litre.

I would like to ask the Prime Minister: why the inconsistency? Why, in the case of Canada Post, did the Conservative Caucus get terribly upset and block the increase, and why is Petro-Canada, also a Crown corporation, allowed to increase the price of gas by two cents a litre, and to do so—and this is particularly outrageous—only in the Province of Quebec?

● (1500)

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I have explained to the Hon. Member, there is no constitutional authority for the federal Government to set prices. That is a fact; that is the reality. We have to live with that. We have a responsibility to ensure a competitive market, which we are trying to do to the best of our ability. If the Hon. Member has any evidence that the market is being manipulated in some fashion to the detriment of consumers, let us know and we will act immediately.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REVIEW CERTAIN INCREASES
SUGGESTED BY CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has a responsibility to monitor this kind of thing. There is nothing in the Canadian Constitution, however, that says a Government cannot tell a Crown corporation that falls under its jurisdiction: You can't raise your prices. So again, I want to ask the Minister, and it seems to be the Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, no connection with consumer protection: Why is the Government so inconsistent? They stopped a two-cent increase in postal rates proposed by a Crown corporation, but they refuse to take action when another Crown corporation raises the price of its gas.

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, when the Liberal Government established Petro-Canada it said the company should operate in the commercial market-place as if it was a commercial corporation. As such it is under the jurisdiction of the Competition Act which is there to ensure that Petro-Canada, Ultramar, or anyone else acts in a proper fashion.

I repeat, if the Hon. Member has any evidence that Petro-Canada or anyone else is not operating in compliance with the Competition Act, let us know and we will take action.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burnaby, one question, please.

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**STATUS OF ENGLISH IN RCMP**

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. A recent report of the Official Languages Commissioner and many people at Division C have condemned the administration of the RCMP by saying that, for all practical purposes, English is virtually the only language of work at Headquarters. My question is this: What action will the Minister take to put an end to this discrimination, not to say this unacceptable racism, on the part of the RCMP?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have already asked my colleague the Solicitor General to present to me as soon as possible an action plan to ensure that the bilingualism objectives for this agency will be met in the prescribed time limits.

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[English]

POINT OF ORDER**TABLING OF TELEGRAM READ BY MINISTER IN HOUSE**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, during Question Period the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn) referred to a telegram he received from Mr. Arcangel. Since he read from that telegram I request that it be now tabled.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Wait a second. Your Whip has already spoken.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Before you table it. When the hon. gentleman tables it, will he say whether he asked for that resignation.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, this is highly unusual. I will simply say that I did not ask for this resignation—

Mr. Garneau: Somebody else did.

Mr. Hnatyshyn:—and I am glad to table the telegram.

I think the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) should take care in using the protection of this House in making allegations concerning citizens of this country.

Some Hon. Members: You should, too.