

**Mr. Trudeau:**—cross-questioning about private meetings between our ministers, or between the British Prime Minister and myself. The House may not like this, but if they do not like it they can address themselves to the British parliament or to the British government.

**Mr. Clark:** This is our Parliament.

#### POSITION OF PROVINCES ON CHANGE OF POWERS

**Hon. David Crombie (Rosedale):** Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister and ask if it is his view and the view of his government that the British parliament should be able to change the powers and responsibilities of the provinces without their consent.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I think that would come under the heading of a legal opinion, certainly a constitutional opinion.

**Mr. Lawrence:** It is not hypothetical anyway.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I would point out to the hon. member that it seems to me that is exactly the position of the official opposition.

**Mr. Clark:** Not at all.

**Mr. Trudeau:** They have suggested they want patriation and an amending formula without the consent of all the provinces, and they have added to this that they want to entrench part of the charter, to wit, aboriginal rights and native rights. So they are saying that we can enact some part of the charter without the consent of the provinces. They are saying we can patriate the Constitution with an amending formula without the consent of the provinces. Therefore, I think basically they are saying the same thing. Their constitutional position is the same as ours, except that they do not have the courage to entrench the whole charter; they just want to entrench part of it.

● (1450)

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

**Mr. Crombie:** Madam Speaker, I know the Prime Minister would like to play politics with my question, but it is seriously meant.

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

**Mr. Crombie:** I know there are a number of people who are concerned with the answer. I shall direct my question in this fashion, Madam Speaker. It is an important one because it is not a question of law, as the Prime Minister said yesterday; it is indeed a question of understanding our politics. People would like to know whether it is the government's view that the British parliament can change the rights and responsibilities of the provinces without their consent. It is a simple question; I would like a direct answer.

**An hon. Member:** Yes or no.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I gave the answer. The answer is yes. What I am saying is that the Tory party said the same thing this week in committee—

**Mr. Lawrence:** Nonsense.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—when they said they would impose on the provinces by asking Great Britain to pass a statement in London affecting the rights of the provinces and saying that aboriginal rights will be imposed on the provinces without their consent.

**An hon. Member:** Read the transcript.

**Mr. Clark:** It is tough to destroy the public record.

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#### PETRO-CANADA

##### ACQUISITION OF PETROFINA—EXTENSION OF PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns the takeover of Petrofina by Petro-Canada. In spite of this takeover, which we on this side of the House welcome and have long advocated, will the minister agree that Imperial, Gulf, Shell and Texaco still dominate the oil industry?

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

**Mr. Waddell:** As a matter of fact, the combined company represents only 8 per cent of the revenues of the industry.

**An hon. Member:** Why not take over Kuwait?

**Mr. Waddell:** If my friends will just be patient, my question to the minister is this. Is the minister prepared to announce any set policies or plans to bring the real substance and future control of the industry under public ownership?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member's question tailed off into the customary indecision of the NDP, not knowing whether they embrace the policy we have adopted in the national energy plan.

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

**Mr. MacEachen:** For my own part, the government is very pleased that Petro-Canada has been able to negotiate arrangements which will lead to this acquisition and add to the public sector, as indicated in the national energy plan.

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

**Mr. Waddell:** Madam Speaker, I think the minister is being unfair.

**An hon. Member:** That is right.