

Oral Questions

I can only tell the hon. member that the elements of the announcement that will be made at 3.30 p.m. in Room 130-S, which is a change of venue, are going to be based on consultations with the provinces and with the private sector. There will be consultation with the border communities and the consumers' association.

Let me point out to the House that the hon. leader of the New Democratic Party and others have said that there will be increased taxes. There will be no increased federal taxes in this announcement.

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance.

Given the impact higher gasoline prices have on forcing Canadians across the border, will the minister assure Canadians that at the very least the upcoming budget will not include any increase in the federal tax on gasoline? Why will the minister not commit himself today?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, there is more than the gasoline tax that has had an impact on cross-border shopping, it is a multifaceted issue.

If the hon. member would like me to make representations to the provincial governments which also have high gasoline taxes, I will do that as well.

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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture.

While Canada was ostensibly looking for a strengthened article XI(2)(c)(i) of the GATT, we want—

Mr. Speaker: Please. The difficulty the Chair is in is that we have an opposition motion today which refers to the whole of the GATT issue, of which we have been hearing in the House. The hon. member seems to be anticipating an order of the day, but the Chair is having difficulty with the question. He may want to rephrase his question, but it is clearly out of order at the moment.

Mr. Althouse: What efforts did the minister make in pursuing the government's so-called balanced approach

to the strengthened and clarified article XI? The world has not noticed these efforts. What were they? What will he be doing to have it put in the Dunkel report?

Mr. Speaker: I think I have to stay with my original view on it. I have to advise the hon. member for Mackenzie that his question is out of order. He may want to reconsider his position and come back, but at the moment I think I must move on to the next member.

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TRADE

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. The state of Maine has an emergency bill before its Senate which is designed to stop a Canadian success story, Irving Oil Limited, in its efforts to expand its operations into the American market. This is one more example of Canada not gaining market access under the poorly negotiated Tory free trade deal. This is not a free trade deal, it is a one-way deal. What does the minister intend to do to remedy this situation?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had given me notice of the question, which is a fairly specific question, I would have been very happy to give him a response. If he could give me more information, I will get back to him.

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, there is a piece of legislation in the Senate, which I am advised the minister's office is aware of, which is designed purely to stop Irving Oil from expanding into the Maine market and into the United States market. This is not an independent or an isolated event. They have tried to control the lobster industry. We all know about shakes and shingles and now there is this emergency legislation. Why does the minister not admit to Canadians that they failed to negotiate market access in their free trade deal?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): I think I heard my hon. friend say something about the legislation in the U.S. Senate. Surely my friend is aware that there are any number of bills that will be presented by U.S. senators or by U.S. congressmen as a basis for making a point. It is similar to them asking a question in