

*Oral Questions*

Motors Ltd. in East-Central Ontario, has had its supply affected by Petro-Canada. It has been charged more for fuel than it can retail it for in the market today.

Petro-Canada is showing favouritism to its own company-owned and operated service stations, thus cutting off supply to independent dealers. This is driving the price of gasoline up and fixing it at that level. Would the Minister responsible for Petro-Canada, Canada's own oil company, be kind enough to look into this matter and confirm to the House today that there is price fixing, not only at the refinery gate but at the retail level as well?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm such an allegation, but I will look into it. I think that Petro-Canada deals with these matters like any other oil company does. The mandate that it has received from the House of Commons is to do in the marketplace what is commonly done. If something is being done which is unusual or against the law, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has the mandate to make sure that there is no price fixing and collusion among the companies. I think that Petro-Canada is subject to the same laws as any other corporate citizen in the land.

**Mr. Domm:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is aware of the fact that this investigation by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has been going on for eight years. Evidence that has been before the courts has been reported in the newspapers. No one but the Minister is responsible for Petro-Canada, and the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is responsible for the consumer.

● (1450)

## REQUEST FOR MINISTERIAL ACTION

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same Minister. If he has the interests of the consumers of Canada at heart and if he will tolerate a 50 cent per gallon change in price on a phone call from Petro-Canada, discriminating against the private, independent chains of petroleum stations across Canada, why will he not do something? Why would he not direct Petro-Canada to stop this price fixing at the refinery gate and at the retail pumps of Canada?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Petro-Canada's job is to do business just like the other oil companies. It must serve its customers competitively while taking market trends into account. Prices are changing regularly on the markets in Quebec, Ontario and elsewhere, and Petro-Canada certainly operates along the same standards and under the same laws as other Canadian companies.

[Translation]

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## EXTENSION OF COVERAGE TO TIP INCOME EARNERS IN QUEBEC

**Mr. Jean Lapierre (Shefford):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Unemployment and Immigration.

As he is aware, thousands of Quebec hotel and restaurant workers who receive tips are impatiently awaiting the results of his discussions with the Quebec Minister of Revenue about their entitlement to Unemployment Insurance benefits. I would like the Minister to tell us about the results of his discussions with Mr. Dean yesterday in Quebec City.

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I met my provincial counterpart, Mr. Dean, yesterday morning to discuss the Quebec Government proposal and examine the situation in this regard. I indicated that it would be impossible for the federal Government to agree with the Quebec proposal at this time because there is now a case before the Supreme Court on the issue. In addition, the Quebec proposal generally concerns the provisions of the law. We would therefore have to consult the other Provinces in order to learn their views before taking any action. The third aspect of the Quebec proposal will certainly require an amendment to the legislation, and it will take some time for this to come before the Canadian Parliament if we do decide to proceed along that line.

I cannot provide any assurance for the short term to the Quebec Government, but I have suggested that it might be worthwhile to raise this issue with the other provincial governments. We would then have to wait and see whether a consensus can be had in the recommendations made by all the Provinces.

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[English]

## MULTICULTURALISM

## EQUALITY NOW REPORT—CONTRACT COMPLIANCE LEGISLATION

**Mr. Cyril Keeper (Winnipeg-St. James):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Multiculturalism. The report entitled *Equality Now*, which was released yesterday, documents the existence of systemic discrimination in Canada. While that discrimination may not be intentional, the impact is to exclude visible minorities from full and equal participation in Canadian society. I know that the Minister has made positive comment on the report, but I should like to inquire about a specific recommendation.

The report recommends that the Government introduce contract compliance legislation which would require people who contract with the federal Government to introduce affir-