

*Oral Questions*

market forces set the price of gasoline. They reflect transportation and distribution costs and competition in market regions.

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[*Translation*]

**INDUSTRY****INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL PUBLISH REPORT OF PETROLEUM COMPETITION INQUIRY**

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, but, in his absence, perhaps the Prime Minister could answer in his place. Following the closing of the Gulf refinery, six NDP Members asked yesterday for an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act, claiming that the major oil multinationals might have agreed to reduce competition. In view of the great many complaints from across Canada about the high costs of oil products, could the Prime Minister tell the House just how many other groups will have to ask for such an investigation before the Government decides to make public the results of this investigation on competition in the oil industry?

[*English*]

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, may I be permitted simply to reject the premise of the Hon. Member's question, but to say that I will bring the question to the attention of the Minister who will respond to the Hon. Member on his return to Ottawa.

[*Translation*]

**PRICE OF GASOLINE—PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques):** Mr. Speaker, the question has been directed to the Minister a great many times. That is why I should like the head of the Government to tell us when his Government will assume its responsibilities and protect Canadian consumers who are paying exorbitant prices for gasoline, especially in Montreal where only two refineries remain following the closing of the Gulf refinery.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I assume this representation will be submitted to the responsible Minister. In my opinion, however, it is clear that Canada has experienced enormous difficulties following the implementation of the National Energy Policy which has stifled the oil industry in Canada. We are already witnessing major improvements for consumers in this area.

● (1420)

**CROWN CORPORATIONS****POSSIBLE SALE OF CANADAIR—IMPACT ON URBAN MILIEU**

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Last night I attended a meeting in the region of Montreal. Despite opposition from thousands of Canadair employees, the municipality of Saint-Laurent refused to change the regional development plan to ensure the survival of Canadair.

Is the Minister now prepared to assure the city that the Government intends to request from any potential Canadian buyer a guarantee that Canadair will remain on its Saint-Laurent site for years to come?

[*English*]

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member, other Members of the House and the public at large, that there is no intention to have Canadair move from its present location. I do not think the Hon. Member serves anyone well by making such alarmist comments.

**LOCATION OF CANADAIR—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT**

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister should be aware that a thousand Canadair workers are not reassured by those comments and that is why we are asking if the Minister will inform the City of St. Laurent that it is not the Government's intention to allow Canadair to move, and that it will be a condition of any sale of Canadair that it will stay for a very long period of time on its site in St. Laurent next door to the Cartierville Airport.

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member would do a great service if he would tell not only the thousand workers to whom he has referred but Canadians in general that there is absolutely no intention of that. Certainly any discussions we have had with would-be buyers anticipate Canadair staying exactly in the area in which it is now active.

[*Translation*]

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE REFERRAL**

**Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, now that the Minister has admitted that discussions have been held with prospective Canadair buyers, can he assure us that, as in the case of de Havilland where we had constructive and positive proceedings, we will have parliamentary committee meetings before the sale is finalized so that Parliament can discuss and consider any prospective sale of Canadair?