

S.O. 21

applies the no recession scenario to the federal Government's accounts, one finds a small federal surplus in this fiscal year, indicating that our federal deficit is short-term.

According to figures supplied to *The New York Times* by Morgan Guaranteed Trust, a no recession scenario would show a deficit of \$60 billion. Other estimates run as high as \$90 billion, "a figure deemed dangerous." Given the nature of our deficit short-term, there is no reason, therefore, that Canada's federal short-term deficit should prevent expansionary measures.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

ATTENDANCE OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS
DURING PENSION LEGISLATION VOTE

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, the House will recall that last year the Conservatives held up the House of Commons for 15 days on behalf of their friends in the multinational oil companies. And during the course of the last year they have held up the passage of Canagrex on behalf of their friends in the multinational grain companies.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: Last August the Conservatives hurried with obscene haste to support the Government in its six and five legislation, and in the process voted against an amendment put by us which would have protected the pensions of senior citizens who worked for the Government.

On Thursday last we gave the Conservatives an opportunity to stop the Government dead in its tracks as it attempted to pass legislation which affects senior citizens and families all across the country. They, however, could only muster 15 minutes of support for senior citizens. Yesterday we had a vote in the House and, had the Tories been present, we could have defeated the legislation which most affects senior citizen pensioners and the civil servants, but they had only 54 Members present, just slightly more than half of them. I want to say to you and to the House, Madam Speaker, that it is clear to see where the Tory priorities lie.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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ENERGY

PRICE OF GASOLINE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, it is difficult to follow a comedy routine, but I will do my best.

In 1980 the Liberals promised the Canadian people lower energy prices. Since that promise, gasoline prices have risen 17

times, adding some 84 cents a gallon to the price of gas. Canadians are now paying \$2 a gallon, or 44 cents a litre, for gasoline.

Yesterday the Minister of Energy, Mr. Chrétien, tried to blame provincial sales taxes for high-gas prices. That is nonsense. In Ontario the provincial sales tax is 15 per cent while the federal sales tax is 35 per cent of the price consumers pay. What bothers us on this side is that while Americans are paying less because OPEC prices have dropped and consumers everywhere welcome that, the Minister of State (International Trade) (Mr. Regan) is quoted in Saudi Arabia as saying, "If the price of international crude oil should go down, Canada would face very serious problems."

On behalf of the consumers of Canada we demand that the price of gasoline in Canada, which has followed world prices up, follow world prices down just as quickly as OPEC prices decrease.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF NORTH SHORE AS SITE
FOR PÉCHINEY ALUMINUM MILL

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, the House is aware that at the present time, the North Shore is going through one of the most difficult times in its history.

I should therefore like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Lumley) to reconsider the choice of Bécancour as the site for the Pechiney aluminum refinery. Madam Speaker, I wonder whether instead of investing in the construction of new facilities at Bécancour, we should not ask the Province of Quebec to invite Pechiney to establish its refinery on the North Shore where all services already exist and where we have accommodation for over 8,000 people in Port Cartier and Sept-Îles. Considering the availability of large quantities of cheap energy and the existence of deep-water ports on the North Shore, I think Quebec would do well to urge Pechiney to reconsider its choice of site and opt for the North Shore instead. This industry would revitalize the region, which certainly deserves the assistance of both provincial and federal governments. Madam Speaker, it would be unreasonable, to say the least, to spend millions of dollars in the Bécancour area on site preparation and access roads, when on the North Shore, the same facilities already exist, were paid for ten years ago and are not being used at the present time. I would therefore ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion to get in touch with his Quebec counterpart to make sure that we—