

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, when the Prime Minister speaks, he is speaking for the government. But we are not like the last government, because we have more than one spokesman; so when I speak on certain occasions, I speak for the government, as is the case with the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the other 30 members of the cabinet. We are one for one, all for one and one for all.

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

## THE BUDGET—EFFECT OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Nipissing):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can get the Minister of Finance to explain another inconsistency. He is quoted in *The Globe and Mail* as having said that his mortgage credit proposal is now inconsistent with the policy that he will espouse within his budget.

In view of the fact that he has announced he will be proceeding with his budget on December 11, would the minister indicate why he is also proceeding at this time with the mortgage credit bill, which he now admits is inconsistent with budget policy, and why he would not wait until he has presented his budget so that the House could see what it contains?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in politics, as in life, consistency is not always possible.

**Mr. Gray:** You said it.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The mortgage interest and property tax credit legislation which we hope will be debated in the House shortly will be good for the Canadian people and for this country. It will be tax relief for the taxpayers of the country. It is a piece of legislation that stands on its own, and I know it will get support from all members of the House who want to help Canadian taxpayers next year and relieve them to the tune of \$575 million. This is in tune with what hon. gentlemen have been asking for—stimulation—on the other side of the House.

● (1420)

**Mr. Blais:** A supplementary question. Are we, then, to assume that because the minister indicates that consistency is not the forte of the government on that side of the House, he agrees that the mortgage credit proposal will prevent him from using substantial funds in order to alleviate the impact upon the unfortunate whom the government is leaving out in the cold?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, I might say that oscillation was the sign of the last administration: not oscillation, but oscillation. In the budget that I will be bringing down, we will be showing our concern for the average Canadian as well as for the Canadian economy and the Canadian private sector. We intend to see that lower income Canadians also are protected by this government. That is our policy—fair shares to all.

[Mr. Gray.]

## ENERGY

DECISION OF IRAN TO CUT OFF SUPPLIES OF OIL TO U.S.—  
EFFECT ON CANADA'S SUPPLIES

**Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for one of the musketeers over there, namely, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of Iran's decision to cut off two major U.S. oil companies from all Iranian oil supplies, and the implications this has for third party contracts, can the minister inform the House if Canada's oil supplies from the multinationals will be affected in any way?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the latest information that we have with respect to the Iranian situation is that at least two ships were denied loading on Friday. With this late information that has come to our attention, we are keeping close contact through our representatives in Tehran. We do not know the full implications involved, and it is a matter of concern to us; but clearly we will be watching the situation very closely.

There have been suggestions that the International Energy Agency may be moving up its meeting from a projected January date to some time in December in order to discuss the international situation, at which time it is hoped we can have a better look at exactly what is the world situation.

**Mr. Symes:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to ask the minister what assurances he has from the multinational oil companies that oil contracted for Canadian markets will in no way be diminished or diverted because of other market commitments these companies may have.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, I have taken the step of writing to each of the companies involved in the importation of oil into Canada, indicating the position we have taken as a government, namely, that we are going to look very closely at any diversion made except in the context of international accord and agreement. I have asked them to keep the position of the government in mind in terms of their activities of importing oil into Canada.

I wish to point out to the hon. member that, as well, in the event there is going to be any diversion in the future, or in the course of this winter, I have asked them to advise us in advance so that we can assess our position with respect to any proposed diversion of supply for Canada.

**Mr. Symes:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister makes public the responses of those companies. By way of a final supplementary, I am interested in knowing what specific monitoring tools the minister has in place to assure him that what the companies tell him is, indeed, what is actually occurring; or is the minister just content to be the virgin among the seven sisters?

**Mr. Allmand:** "Yes" or "No"?