

Trade Practices Commission of ripping off the Canadian public by over \$1 billion a year for 15 consecutive years? Why does the Minister not demand of Petro-Canada that it show leadership and bring the price down, forcing the others to do likewise?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not see how it could be in the national interest to ask Petro-Canada to sell gasoline at prices lower—

Mr. Deans: Why?

Miss Carney:—than what it paid for the crude oil.

Mr. Frith: How about increased market share?

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THE ECONOMY

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN *LA PRESSE*

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that yesterday the Prime Minister denied that the Minister of Justice said what was attributed to him in *La Presse*, and that last night the tape of the interview was played on national television so that Canadians could hear the actual words, does the Prime Minister now wish to modify his answers of yesterday?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rossi: That's you all right, a bluffer!

GOVERNMENT POLICY

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance—there was no 18-minute gap in that tape.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I am afraid I cannot hear the Hon. Member's question. She is one of your own. If Hon. Members would not mind, the Hon. Member for Trinity has the floor.

Mr. Crosbie: There is an 18-minute gap in the question!

Miss Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. Will the Minister make a statement under Motions to clear up the confusion and inconsistency in Government economic policy, including the blunder which allowed the International Monetary Fund to suggest that Canada is printing money at a rate four times higher than that of any other industrial country?

Oral Questions

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the Hon. Member is talking about. I know that we are creating jobs two and three times faster than other industrialized countries. I know that we are creating investment at one-and-a-half times the level of other industrialized countries. I know that the housing starts in Canada are increasing about three or four times faster than those in other industrialized countries. However, I am not sure from where the Hon. Member obtained that other statistic.

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FISHERIES

ATLANTIC GROUND FISH QUOTA ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Gerald Comeau (South West Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. In a letter dated December 17, 1985, I asked the Minister to review the Atlantic groundfish quota split between the inshore and offshore fishing industries. As thousands of jobs in my riding are dependent upon the fair allocation of this stock, and the successful resolution of this matter is of primary concern to my constituency, will the Minister advise the House with respect to any progress on my request?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the representations made by the Hon. Member, beginning with his letter of December 17. When I met with my Atlantic colleagues, the Atlantic Council of Provincial Fisheries Ministers, on December 11, we decided jointly on a proposal with respect to the split of allocations between the inshore and offshore sector of south-west Nova Scotia. That proposal was supported by the Minister of Fisheries for Nova Scotia. With my colleague from Nova Scotia I am now examining the possibilities of amending the distribution of these stocks. I would point out that, in fact, the landings last year were at unprecedented levels in South-west Nova. I think, as in all other respects, there even appear to be more fish in the sea under a Tory Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PRIME MINISTER

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. It relates to an interview which the Prime Minister granted to *Le Devoir* in which he was reported, on Monday, in *Le Devoir*, to have said that he would be slashing social programs in the upcoming Budget, especially the Unemployment Insurance Program, even if the Forget Commission has not reported by then. Why would the Prime Minister make such announcements in the press even before receiving the recommendations of the Forget