

Oral Questions

that a number of projects have been cancelled, at the rate of more than one per month for the last few months.

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HEALTH AND WELFARE**PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S DAY CARE FACILITIES**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, I should like to go to another area which concerns women, and more specifically affects children in Canada. It has been estimated that only 10 per cent of all those who have a need for day care services in Canada have access to adequate or professional day care facilities. With regard to the concern for the 90 per cent of the children who have need, will the minister commit the government, first, to providing a fund which will enable groups in the private sector that start up day care facilities to receive capital grants and, second, on behalf of the government will he undertake to ensure, or at least show leadership in ensuring that all federal employees who have need of day care services will have them provided?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I agree very much with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. Leader of the New Democratic Party. However, I would point out that there is one major difficulty in making such a commitment, that is, that day care programs are basically decided by provincial governments.

Mr. Broadbent: No.

Mr. Axworthy: We supply our funding through the Canada Assistance Plan, but we cannot set the priorities or the allocations. This is a responsibility of the provinces. My hon. colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, met with her provincial counterparts—and I believe she is meeting with them again this week—to encourage the expansion and extension of day care programs; but we must rely upon the provinces to make those decisions.

Mr. Crosbie: Come off it.

Mr. Axworthy: As far as the second program is concerned, I can inform the hon. member that the President of the Treasury Board and other ministers are working right now on the development of a day care program for federal service employees.

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NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM**PRICES OF OIL AND GASOLINE**

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Recently the hon. member for Sarnia was quoted as saying that he believed the price of oil used for heating and of gasoline should move quickly toward 85 per cent of world

price, and that the Liberal caucus was prepared for such price changes in an effort to reach some agreement between Alberta and Ottawa on the National Energy Program.

Does the government believe that its deception, starting with the promises of the 1980 election, has gone far enough? Is the government flying a trial balloon, through this former minister, to see whether the public is ready for the enormous flip-flop on energy prices?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I refer the hon. member to the National Energy Program, in which we indicated quite clearly and specifically—I do not have the page with me, but if he gives me a few minutes I will find the page—that we did not want the total blended price of gasoline over this decade to exceed 85 per cent of world price. That includes not only the wellhead price but also the refinery gate price. This was clearly spelled out in the National Energy Program when it was published on October 28. There has been no change since then. Indeed, it is in the program as it is. What is being argued about at the present time is how much the wellhead price should be, which is what we are discussing with the government of Alberta.

● (1430)

Mr. Wilson: The minister is clearly having trouble with members in his caucus. I guess it is not the first time that we have seen him having trouble with members of his caucus in trying to arrive at this price.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Wilson: I hear members opposite talking out. I think they are concerned about the answer the minister just gave.

The minister has frequently referred to the positive position taken by NOVA, an Alberta corporation, with regard to the energy program. About a week and a half ago the president of NOVA, Robert Blair, stated that he was disturbed that NOVA has been used by federal spokesmen as an illustration that the National Energy Program must be all right as is. He went on to say that this is a distortion, the National Energy Program is not all right as is. In view of the comments from the hon. member for Sarnia, and in view of the comments by Mr. Blair, where he had recommended moving quickly to 85 per cent of world prices—two \$10 price increases this year and next, which coincidentally arrives at a price equivalent to 85 per cent of world price—would the minister confirm that a price increase of this magnitude is under consideration as a means of achieving that 85 per cent relationship?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I will try to answer the various points one by one. With reference to caucus, the hon. member must hear voices from his own caucus. I invite him to resist transferring those voices into other caucuses.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: As far as the other point that he has raised is concerned, I can tell him that there is no such consideration