

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am very conscious of the concern of the hon. member from the Gaspé area about this matter. I understand I am to receive a report as a result of those meetings as early as next week, and following that I should be able to take the necessary action to secure the improvements which have been sought for so long.

* * *

[Translation]

ENERGY

GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL—POSSIBILITY OF EXEMPTING NORTHWEST QUEBEC FROM PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Bearing in mind the recent statements of the minister to the effect that the price of gas and heating oil will be going up by 14 cents over the next two years, and the fact that people in northwest Quebec are now paying 10 cents a gallon more than in the rest of the province of Quebec, can the minister tell the House whether he is willing to consider the possibility of exempting areas such as northwest Quebec from the coming price increases to have parity between that part of the province and the rest of it?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of exempting any one part of the country or any one part of a province. There is a differential in retail prices for gasoline in the province of Quebec. There are differentials in virtually all provinces, I suppose. These differentials are partly caused by additional transportation costs, but the largest part of the differential is caused by market forces, and if there is concern on the part of the hon. member about marketing arrangements within his province, then I think he should speak to the provincial authorities about that.

● (1200)

[Translation]

REASON PRICE OF GASOLINE IS HIGHER IN ROUYN THAN KIRKLAND LAKE

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us why we, in Rouyn, are paying 15 cents or even 20 cents more a gallon than in Kirkland Lake, some 15 miles away, when he claims that the higher prices in northwest Quebec depend on transportation costs?

[English]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had listened to all of my answer, he would know that I placed the major emphasis on market forces and competition.

Privilege—Mr. Béchard

CANADA PENSION PLAN

ALLEGED USE OF TWO DIFFERENT INDICES AS BASIS FOR PENSION INCREASES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In the envelopes in which the recent Canada Pension Plan cheques were mailed there were enclosures, one of which stated that the cost of living during the year had risen by 8.2 per cent, and that that was the reason for the enclosed cheque. The other one stated that the consumer price index over the past 12 months has increased 8.6 per cent. I am tempted to ask from which branch within Statistics Canada the minister gets his information, but I will ask why he uses two different indices to pro rate the increase on the pension cheques and why there is therefore a different amount which the pensioners get under that system.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member gave himself the trouble of checking the text of the act passed by Parliament some three or four years ago to index pensions under the Canada Pension Plan, he would see that the period for indexing purposes does not correspond to the calendar year but, if I remember well, runs from October to October. That is why the results for the 12-month period do not correspond to those of the calendar year.

[English]

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer my question. Why does he use the CPI on one and the cost of living on the other?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I fail to see the difference the hon. member makes. There is only one index used to calculate the rate of adjustment of the Canada Pension Plan and that is the consumer price index.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine on a question of privilege.

* * *

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

FAILURE OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT TO SHOW ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE ON MAPS

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege on a matter which affects my rights as member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, those of the people of the Magdalen Islands and all the sovereignty of the Canadian territories. On May 11, 1977, in answer to a question on the order paper in the name of the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro), as reported in *Hansard*, on page 5518, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Lang) tabled for publication in appendix two geographical