

## PRICE OF GASOLINE

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has said that the Government has a unique opportunity to make a positive effect in competition and in the market-place, through Petro-Canada. Is the Government prepared to take advantage of this recommendation, or is it going to not never give Canadians a fair price for gasoline at the pumps?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know what "not never give" a fair price to the public means, because this Government, unlike the previous Government, is giving fair prices for gasoline to the public.

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys):** Mr. Speaker, the Government, through its twisted policies for Petro-Canada, has decreased competition. Will the Government take advantage of this unique opportunity, or will it maintain the inflatedly high price for Canadian consumers?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I am loath to refer back to the enormous inflationary effect of the policy of the predecessor Government with respect to oil prices. The fact of the matter is—

**Some Hon. Members:** Below world level.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** —the prices have dropped, under this Government. We have in fact gone into the process of deregulation, which allows the drop in the price of oil to be passed on to the consumer.

With respect to the report of the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, I will have the appropriate Minister get back to the Hon. Member with respect to our policy in that area.

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## MINES AND MINING

## FEDERAL COAL LANDS IN SASKATCHEWAN

**Mr. Don Ravis (Saskatoon East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines. The sterilization of federal coal lands in Saskatchewan has long been an irritant, or a point of contention, in federal-provincial relations. Could the Minister advise what his Department is doing to free up the economic coal reserves?

● (1450)

**Hon. Bob Layton (Minister of State (Mines)):** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to respond to the Hon. Member for

## Oral Questions

Saskatoon East. The Governor in Council has given approval to the transfer agreement which provides for the transfer of coal rights for \$500,000 to the federal Government and \$9.5 million to the City of Estevan to build a new airport. This is another example of good will and co-operation between the provinces and the federal Government.

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

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## SEARCH AND RESCUE

## CIVILIAN DEATHS DURING ALBERTA AIRCRAFT SEARCH OPERATION

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of National Defence. It has to do with a very sad and tragic accident which occurred in Alberta over the weekend in which eight persons were killed on a DND search and rescue mission, five of whom were civilians. Will the inquiry examine whether, in future, civilians should be allowed to undertake risks in search and rescue operations under the direction of DND?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the inquiry *per se* is looking to find the actual reason for this tragic crash. May I take this opportunity to express my sympathies to the families in this regard.

The Civil Air Search and Rescue Association has been in existence for a number of years. It has provided a superb service to pilots, particularly private pilots. It has flown thousands and thousands of hours with no accidents heretofore. I cannot commit that we will be undertaking that type of fundamental examination. However, clearly, there is a concern that we share. We want to do what we can to limit the liability and risks which civilians might take.

## GOVERNMENT LIABILITY

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, what is the extent of the Government's liability when civilians are harmed, or indeed killed in the course of a DND directed search and rescue operation?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, it very much depends on the circumstances. At this point in time I cannot tell the Hon. Member for sure if all five of the civilians onboard were in fact part of CASARA or whether in fact they were onboard in some other capacity. Since I do not know the relationship they had with CASARA I cannot answer the Hon. Member's question precisely; but I will be glad to get back to him when I have that information.