

**Mr. Lawrence:** I have a supplementary question in relation to the disposition of the tax revenue. Can the minister inform the House if any firm offer has been made to Alberta on the disposition of this income?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, the matter was discussed on a negotiating basis only in consideration of other arrangements that might be made.

GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL—DETERMINATION OF ACTUAL COST INCREASES RELATED TO RETAIL PRICE INCREASES SINCE SEPTEMBER 4

**Mr. Ian Arrol (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister has assured the House that on November 1 there will be a comprehensive statement regarding gasoline and fuel prices. Has he requested the National Energy Board, under the provisions of the National Energy Board Act which grant him such powers, to determine, prior to the formulation of his statement, the actual cost increases related to retail price increases in gasoline or fuel oil that have taken place since September 4?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the National Energy Board has been working with officials of my department in determining the costs in this industry in its very general sense.

**Mr. Arrol:** Can the minister assure the House that he will not allow any such retail price increases to be made until a study of cost increases has been conducted and made public?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, that is what we have been studying and my intention is to make it public on Thursday.

GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE IN QUEBEC—VIOLATION OF GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister on September 13 supplementary to his initial statement on September 4 extending the price freeze requested by the Prime Minister to prices of gasoline, diesel oil and home heating fuel, would the right hon. gentleman confirm that the recently announced price increase is a direct violation of his government's guidelines?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Abitibi. Order, please. The hon. member for Brandon-Souris rises on a point of order.

[Translation]

I apologize to the hon. member for Abitibi for not recognizing him right now.

Oral Questions

[English]

**Mr. Dinsdale:** In the applause, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the Prime Minister's reply. Was it yes or no?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** The answer was no, Mr. Speaker, I cannot confirm that.

[Translation]

SUGGESTION THAT PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS WITH PREMIER OF QUEBEC REMOVAL OR REDUCTION OF PROVINCIAL TAX ON GASOLINE AND HEATING OIL

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister.

Since a totalitarian government was swept into power in Quebec last night, could the Prime Minister get in touch with his Quebec counterpart and discuss the possibility of the Quebec government removing or at least reducing the tax on gas and heating fuel in order to prevent the forthcoming price increase?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I think the smiles which greeted the hon. member's question can be explained in the same way as those which greeted the remarks of the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe. We do not smile because of the Liberal victory but rather because of the hon. member's prediction at a press conference that the government elected yesterday would be a minority government.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I should ask a supplementary or return to the first question. I think the right hon. Prime Minister forgot to answer it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to point out that there certainly is a difference between what the hon. member calls a totalitarian government and what the other hon. member calls a minority government.

**Mr. Laprise:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member for Abitibi is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I think I asked the Prime Minister a fairly clear question, that is whether he would consider getting in touch with his Quebec counterpart in order to convince him to remove or reduce the tax on gas and heating oil, to avoid the imminent price increase.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I believe I shall be meeting the Premier of Quebec very soon. First of all, I will want to congratulate him on his brilliant victory. I can assure the hon. member that in our discussions we will bear in mind the respective jurisdictions of Quebec and the federal government. I do not intend to suggest to him a particular course in the taxation field which comes under his jurisdiction.