

• (1420)

Mrs. Campbell (South West Nova): Including Peterson.

Mr. Mulroney: I am trying to come to that.

I indicated that I thought that the Premier of Québec in terms of his comments was being vigilant in regard to the interests of the Province of Quebec.

I indicated as well that Premier Peterson of Ontario had already engaged us in a battle on the free trade question, and that he was free to do so again; it is a free country and we welcome his participation.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, that was certainly not the tone of the Prime Minister's remarks. However, I am sure that both the Premiers of Québec and Ontario will take renewed heart from what he had to say today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

FAIRNESS IN CORPORATE TAX

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance mentioned corporations. I want to put another question to him about the fairness in the Budget.

We have reviewed his budget papers. Corporations already pay only 12 per cent of the taxes in Canada. As part of tax reform the Minister of Finance promised that he would shift some of the burden to corporations from individual taxpayers. That he has not done.

Will the Minister of Finance be good enough to explain to the House why tax increases in his latest Budget for individual Canadians are six times higher than tax increases for corporations? Does he think that is fair? How does he reconcile that with his earlier statements to the House this afternoon?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me observe that the tax on large corporations results in an increase in corporate taxation of 7.3 per cent. Increases in the personal income tax in this Budget result in an increase of 2.1 per cent. Clearly, we are asking corporations to pay a greater share of the burden of income taxation.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): That is wrong.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Leader of the Opposition is suggesting, I think, that we hammer the corporations, and ask them to pay a good deal more tax. He knows full well that if we followed that route the

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opportunities, the incentive to invest in Canada, would be lowered relative to other countries. Corporations would move down into the United States or other countries, set up business down there, create jobs, and take job opportunities away from Canada.

If that is the short-sighted approach that the Leader of the Opposition wants to follow, I think he will find out very quickly that there will be no one following him in that direction.

Mr. McDermid: Now we understand why he is resigning.

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DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

TRANS-BORDER SHIPMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN FUELS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. Yesterday, the Minister said in the House that he did not learn of the toxic fuel fraud until this week. This morning he clarified that statement in the House, admitting to a meeting that took place in September of 1987. However, he claimed that that meeting dealt with the issue of toxic fuel fraud in the United States only, and did not involve transborder shipments.

How can the Minister continue to mislead the House—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Ms. Copps: —when in fact in a statement this morning the Executive Vice-President of the Petroleum Marketers Association of Canada said that he met with the former Minister of National Revenue on January 7, 1987, and told the Minister specifically about allegations of transborder shipments of toxic fuels placed in gasoline?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour knows I took the earliest opportunity this morning to come before this House to clarify the statements as a result of new information that came to me late yesterday afternoon.

I said, and I will repeat what I said this morning, that I am advised that Revenue Canada was not provided with any evidence of contaminated fuels being brought into Canada, at the September meeting, or since. Whatever