

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Madam Speaker, I am well aware of the whole situation in northern Manitoba as the hon. member has described it. My department is also aware of the concerns of the hon. member on this matter. We have looked into the situation and asked for a complete report. I can assure the hon. member that the entire question of more adequate training will receive our immediate attention.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, according to the same report, 75 per cent of the above-ground petroleum storage sites are improperly designed and are a major factor in the pollution which has taken place. Among the companies responsible for this deplorable situation are the Hudson's Bay Company, the CNR, the federal Department of Transport as well as many of the multinational oil corporations located there. Will the minister give directions to his department to ensure that these corporate offenders are instructed very quickly to take care of this situation and to eliminate the pollution which they have created?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Madam Speaker, subject to receiving more details in a report later this week—the contents of which I will be pleased to relay to the hon. member—if what he has suggested seems to be an appropriate course of action, then I would have no hesitation in taking that course of action.

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● (1440)

NATIONAL REVENUE

INCOME TAX DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES OF SPOUSES IN UNINCORPORATED BUSINESSES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. In view of the announcement by the Minister of Finance last spring that wages of a spouse working in an unincorporated small business would be deductible for income tax purposes, can the minister assure the House that this commitment made by the Minister of Finance will be honoured for the 1980 taxation year, because the department is refusing to accept income tax contributions deducted for spouses working in unincorporated small businesses?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, the policy of the government is as expressed by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, in his April statement. We have had some difficulty with legislation because the heavy legislative schedule the government has had, but I can assure the hon. member we will be taking all the necessary steps to ensure that that policy is put in place. People so affected should govern themselves as though all of the necessary steps have been taken which will allow them that claim before the 1980 taxation year.

Oral Questions

PETRO-CANADA

INQUIRY WHETHER EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATED IN PREPARATION OF NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister will understand the distinction between being consulted on the content of a policy decision and the actual preparation of a position. In that context, can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell the House whether any official or employee of Petro-Canada participated in the preparation of the energy policy published as part of the budget?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Would the right hon. member repeat the last part of his question? There was some noise and I did not hear him, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Clark: There is a distinction, which I believe the hon. minister understands, between being consulted and participating in the preparation of something. My question is whether any official or employee of Petro-Canada participated in the preparation of the energy policy which was tabled as part of the budget.

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, there was one employee of Petro-Canada who was on leave and was attached to the department during the preparation of the energy program. I know of no other employees of Petro-Canada who participated in the program. As I said, the employee in question was on leave from Petro-Canada during the time he worked for the department.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, can the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources tell us whether this individual—and I would appreciate having the individual identified—was drawing salary from Petro-Canada at the time he was on leave from that company? In addition, was there any arrangement with Petro-Canada which would speak either to pension rights or to the rights of re-employment, and is that person now back with Petro-Canada?

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, the individual is Mr. Joel Bell whose name has been public knowledge for the past few months.

I will make some inquiries about his exact contractual arrangements. I was aware of them, but I cannot recall all of the aspects to which the right hon. gentleman has referred. It was made quite clear that the particular individual was to be considered as working for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and, as such, was bound by the rules which apply to federal public servants for the entire period he worked for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, we want to know all of the details, including any then existing, recommenced or continu-