

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Kindy:** Some of the provisions in the national energy program, for instance, the petroleum and gas revenue tax, are extremely discriminatory, because it is a tax on revenue, not profit.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member have a question, please?

**Mr. Kindy:** Would the Minister report on the status of discussions between the petroleum and gas producing provinces and her Ministry? Second, would the Minister also indicate whether there is a deadline to those discussions?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can report favourably on the progress of the negotiations with the western producing provinces. We have had regular meetings. The last one was this week. More will be scheduled. We are also, at the same time, meeting with representatives of the Governments of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. There is a meeting under way today with the officials of Newfoundland on the Atlantic accord.

In terms of a deadline, we have set ourselves a working deadline of January 31 to make progress, and we are confident that we will make progress. We will be proceeding with some of the very important issues as long as it takes to come to an agreement.

\* \* \*

**EMPLOYMENT**

## PROVISION OF FUNDS TO CREATE JOBS

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Can he reconcile the musings of the Minister of Employment and Immigration with the statements of the Minister of Finance? The Prime Minister will know that his Employment Minister has stated that the \$1 billion allocation for job creation has been money reallocated from within the Government. The Minister of Finance has stated in the supplementary information, and I quote very briefly, Mr. Speaker:

—it is possible to begin to provide some support for the creation of new employment opportunities . . . Specifically, the Government is providing a special budgetary allocation of \$1 million in 1985-86 primarily for this purpose.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it is so clear to me that it does not need any further clarification.

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

## SOURCE OF FUNDING

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** If it is new money, Mr. Speaker, will the Prime Minister indicate to the House whether the new money will be found by raising the taxes or increasing the deficit? Will he clarify that for Members of this House, because this is an urgent matter?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose the first thing we will do is look in the closet that Mr. Lalonde opened last summer.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** We are also going to deal with the question of government expenditures. My right hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has already referred to billions of dollars in waste. We are looking at that and at the excellent initiatives undertaken by my friend, the Deputy Prime Minister. We are looking to attempt to exercise prudence and frugality in the utilization of public funds. Altogether this is where my hon. friend, the Minister of Employment, will find the money that she requires to be so helpful to the unemployed.

\* \* \*

**HARBOURS AND PORTS**

## KENORA AND NORTH BAY

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Kenora-Rainy River.

**Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River):** Mr. Speaker, may I thank you for identifying me correctly for the first time. I know how tough it is to tell those bearded fellows apart.

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

**Mr. Parry:** My question is directed to the Hon. Minister of Transport in the sure knowledge that his answers will demonstrate some of the horse sense his colleagues can only talk about. In a recent report prepared for the Ministry it was suggested the Ministry should move to divest itself specifically of two public ports, Kenora and North Bay. Can we have the Minister's assurance that this recommendation will be given the most careful determination before any action is taken?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** I will take the Hon. Member's representations into consideration, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

**Mr. Parry:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

May I ask the Hon. Minister whether there will be a series of public consultations before a decision is made?

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I will take the Hon. Member's suggestion into consideration as well, Mr. Speaker.