

Oral Questions

an outstanding landmark of cultural achievement for this country.

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the minister still has not told us whether he is prepared to give them any money, which is the bottom line.

The National Film Board employs Canadian artists and is made up of 100 per cent Canadian content. Yesterday, the minister advocated to the Canadian Broadcasting League a policy of going into pay-television. Will that policy not mean more Americanization and fewer jobs for Canadian artists in the long run?

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, the whole intention of this government, with respect to the development of this new marketing system of pay-television, is to ensure that there is adequate development of the Canadian production industry. I happen to know, from earlier representations, that the National Film Board itself is very much interested in the possibilities in terms of the board's enhanced activities in this area, which will certainly be one of the matters very much under consideration.

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[Translation]

LOTO CANADA

INQUIRY WHEN TERMS OF AGREEMENTS WITH PROVINCES
WILL BE PUBLISHED

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism. Since Loto Canada has been transferred to the provinces and the minister seems to have already completed his tour across the country and met with his provincial counterparts, could he tell this House when he intends to make public the final agreement and the specific terms of that agreement?

[English]

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism): Mr. Speaker, I expect to bring the final agreement to the House right after the first of the new year.

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PETRO-CANADA

DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUE IF CORPORATION SOLD

Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Many Canadians believe that the only reason the government is proposing to sell the profitable parts of Petro-Canada is in order to pay for the housing mortgage credit scheme.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

Mr. Stollery: Could the Prime Minister tell the House if the government has, indeed, conducted studies to see how much revenue would be collected by the government if, in fact, the profitable parts of Petro-Canada were sold?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, many Canadians believe that if we were to put on sale the hon. member who has just raised a question, we would not yield great profits to the Government of Canada, although we might to the House.

There have not been any of the kinds of inquiries to which the hon. member has referred. I would be very interested in receiving from him the evidence on which he bases his assertion as to the belief of Canadians.

Mr. Stollery: Mr. Speaker, I will not raise a question of privilege at this time, because I know that they cannot start until after the question period is finished. I think that the kind of insulting answer which the Prime Minister has just given to me is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Stollery: I would like to ask the hon. gentleman: if, in fact, this is true—and I can assure him that a great number of Canadians believe it is—would the Prime Minister consult with his Minister of Finance, in view of the fact that we now have Shylock interest rates in this country, in view of the fact that the housing tax credit is only applicable to a small number of Canadians, and consider abandoning his proposal to sell the profitable parts of Petro-Canada and his proposal for an unequal tax program and, instead, give a tax credit or tax cut to all Canadians because of the high interest rates in this country?

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to answer, in what I thought was a humorous way, what I thought was a humorous question. Obviously, my humour was not interpreted humorously by the hon. member.

Mr. MacEachen: Non-existent.

Mr. Clark: I want to assure him that I intended no insult. The opposition House leader, who is an expert on these matters, tells me that the humour was non-existent.

Mr. MacEachen: That's right.

Mr. Clark: Relative to the particular question put forward by the hon. member, no, I do not intend to withdraw the tax credit proposal. We will be making an announcement in due course—in two or three weeks, I would hope—in relation to the government's decision in response to the task force on Petro-Canada. We intend to review that report very seriously. I would genuinely hope that all members of Parliament who are interested in bringing the institutions of government closer to the people of Canada, and who are interested in giving Canadian citizens a broader opportunity to play a direct role in the country, will also consider the task force report.