

Oral Questions

prices of any industrialized country in the world. That is the situation, and I am sorry if my hon. friend cannot see it.

Mr. Waddell: I have a supplementary for the arrogant Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I invite him to go to my riding where the average person is paying from \$700 to \$1,100 for heating oil, an increase in the last year, and has paid from \$600 to \$900 this year to drive a car, and where the price of energy has gone up 30 per cent for people, including those on fixed incomes. He should get out of his ivory tower and go down among the people to ask them what they think of the program.

SOURCE OF FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR OIL INDUSTRY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Every day we ask the Prime Minister in the House whether he is prepared to find some money to aid in health care or education—money for the provinces—and to find money for jobs. How is the Prime Minister's government able to find \$2 billion to help the oil industry—mostly the large oil industry in this country—when it cannot find money to help the unemployed and the people who need health care?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I may remind the hon. member that as a result of the National Energy Program and the agreements concluded with Alberta, every Canadian will benefit from a net savings of \$2,500 between 1981 and 1986. The hon. member referred to the home heating bill for someone living in Vancouver. Now, if that same person were living south of the border, in the United States, it would cost him 25 per cent more to heat his home today, and I do not know how much if he were living in a country other than the United States. That is the situation. We are not saying that energy is cheap in Canada. We are not saying that prices are not going up, but we must live with the realities of the world we are in today. At the present time, Canadians are paying the lowest prices of any industrialized country in the world, and this will continue to be the case during the next four years, thanks to the measures taken by this government. I wish my hon. colleague would acknowledge these facts. As far as assistance to—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York-Sunbury.

[*English*]

STATUS OF WOMEN

COMMITTEE REPORT ON FAMILY VIOLENCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Has he had an opportunity to consider the recommendations made in the report on wife battering which was recently tabled in the House? If so, what is the intention of his government with respect to the implementation of these important recommendations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, indeed, the government has seized itself with this report which reveals a very distressing situation in Canada, and one which is something of a blot on our society. I have had occasion to verify the actions taken by various departments. It would seem that in just about every area contained in the recommendations, the ministers have taken action or are at the point of taking action.

The hon. member was courteous enough to send me notice of his question. I have a short list of areas where ministers are taking action. The Solicitor General has been looking into ways of establishing training programs, particularly in sensitizing the forces to the special problems—

Mr. Clark: Table it. Order. He should table it.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I am not sure what is worrying the Leader of the Opposition at this time.

Mr. Clark: Table the answer. He has got a long list; let him table it.

Madam Speaker: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition wants his members to ask written questions, we will give written answers. But if they are allowed the courtesy of giving verbal questions, we will give verbal answers. That is the rule of the House.

Mr. Clark: You are reading a list.

Mr. Trudeau: I think that many of the debates in the House, and question period itself, would be much more serious if we did proceed by way of written questions and written answers, and with notices of questions. I am prepared to discuss that situation.

Mr. Clark: You will abuse it like you are abusing this.

Madam Speaker: Order. I believe the question was on a different matter.

Mr. Howie: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the encouraging answer.