

*Oral Questions*

done had been perfectly legal and procedurally proper, at which time a new point of order was raised questioning the legality of what I would call, not a new tax, but a new levy or charge on the Canadian people; I remember quite well the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources saying then to hon. members of the opposition that as far as he was concerned, he was satisfied, on the basis of the legal advice he had received, that the procedure was perfectly legal and in order.

**Mr. Clark:** No, no!

**Mr. Pinard:** I can hear the Leader of the Opposition saying no. Obviously, he has failed to understand anything.

[*English*]

**Mr. Jarvis:** Madam Speaker, I regret I have to correct the President of the Privy Council, but that was not the nature of Madam Speaker's ruling.

**Mr. Clark:** Nor Lalonde's statement.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is not correct.

**Mr. Jarvis:** That is exactly what the President of the Privy Council just said.

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, no.

**Mr. Jarvis:** I wish the Prime Minister would compose himself. I think this is infectious today in the House. Is the government willing to run the risk of a probably illegal levy until this House resumes sitting after the summer recess, or is the intention of the President of the Privy Council to move within the limits provided for him before we recess to legalize what would likely be otherwise an illegal levy upon all consumers of petroleum products in the country?

**Mr. Pinard:** Madam Speaker, what I said to the hon. member is that we have no evidence there is an illegal levy. On the contrary, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources last Friday said very clearly that he had verified, he had checked and he was assured that what he was doing was according to the rules—

**Mr. Clark:** That is not what he said.

**Mr. Pinard:**—and according to the law.

**Mr. Clark:** You are misleading the House.

**Mr. Pinard:** The opinion we have so far is that everything is legal and I have nothing else to add at this time.

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

## SMALL BUSINESS

## WAGE SUBSIDY JOB-CREATION PROGRAM

**Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Small Businesses). *Hansard* of June 26 will show clearly that the new job-creation program announced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration will only produce about 7,500 jobs this year. Could the minister indicate to the House whether or not he is pushing for a wage subsidy job-creation program as a way of aiding the small business sector and creating jobs in the country?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State, Small Businesses):** Madam Speaker, I believe the programs proposed by the Minister of Employment and Immigration already take into account the concerns of the hon. member.

[*English*]

**Mr. Hawkes:** Madam Speaker, the direct job-creation program or the employer tax credit which will produce about 4,500 jobs in the calendar year effectively eliminates 50 per cent of the businesses in Canada which could create employment. A wage subsidy program at the same cost could involve the other 50 per cent and double the employment creation for the same kind of expenditure of funds.

Is the minister aware of that kind of information? Has he taken it into account? Is he saying clearly to the House that he will not push for a wage subsidy job-creation program?

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix):** Madam Speaker, it seems obvious that the hon. member does not agree with one of the government programs introduced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I shall be pleased to look into the claims of the hon. member, to which I am not willing to attach credence for the time being. Should they be founded in any way, I shall be pleased to take them into consideration and consult my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, in that regard.

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[*English*]

## ENERGY

## LEGALITY OF INCREASE IN PRICE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, I want to direct some questions to the President of the Privy Council relative to his answer a moment ago to my colleague, the hon. member for Perth. I regret I will have to quote from *Hansard* and perhaps take a moment of the time of the House. As reported on page 2839 of *Hansard* for Friday, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said: