

Oral Questions

Chrétien states that refinery closings in Montreal in 1983 are due only to market forces and a decrease in consumption.

That is what happened.

Mr. Chrétien: He says that there is still room.

Mr. Mulroney: Nothing contradictory was said by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is absent today. I repeat that there is no contradiction in the replies of the two Ministers, and in my opinion, the answer just given by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is very clear. However, since this is an important matter, there is something that should be pointed out; in this regard, we also find in the newspaper *Le Devoir* of March 30, 1983 that "the FTQ asks Chrétien to prevent the closure of the BP refinery in Montreal", and he refused. The Liberals said no to Quebecers, no to the refining industry, no to the high technology industry. As for us, we shall work with Quebec to build its economy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Supplementary. The Hon. Member for Oshawa.

[English]

GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is refusing to deal with a matter which is extremely serious for the people and Government of the Province of Quebec. I can say only that the partisan answers he is giving today to serious questions are an absolute disgrace for a Prime Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: His Minister of Energy said in this House yesterday, and he can check the reference in *Hansard*, that there is surplus capacity in Quebec now. Another Minister of the Crown said there is a shortage of capacity. The Government of Quebec—

Mr. Speaker: I do need a supplementary question now.

Mr. Broadbent: The Government of Quebec is also saying there is a shortage of capacity with the shut-down of this refinery. Therefore, will the Prime Minister explain where his Government is getting its information and why it made the incredible decision to shut down this refinery?

● (1430)

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we made no such decision to shut down that refinery.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mulroney: The people who shut down refineries in the Province of Quebec were the Liberals who went "bang, bang, bang", and killed the refining industry in the East End of Montreal. That is what they did.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gauthier: Bang, bang, bang!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mulroney: I know it hurts—

Some Hon. Members: Bang, bang, bang!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Rossi: You're a phoney.

Mr. Axworthy: What a joke.

Mr. de Corneille: Bang, bang, bang.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Axworthy: Your nose is getting longer.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Mulroney: I know he does not like it, Mr. Speaker, but when a request was made of this particular Member, who has the temerity to stand up in the House now, with regard—

Mr. Broadbent: Answer the question. I asked the question; he didn't.

Mr. Mulroney: I'm getting around to you. It takes me a little time to deal with you.

Some Hon. Members: Order!

Mr. de Corneille: You're a disgrace.

Mr. de Jong: What a joker.

An Hon. Member: The people are laughing at you, Brian.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order!

Mr. Rodriguez: You're at the end of your rope, Brian, and you need a rest.

Mr. Nystrom: It's time for an election.

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, considering the Prime Minister's behaviour, I would agree with Mr. Stanley Knowles' statement that Mr. Clark is more intelligent than the Prime Minister.

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INDUSTRY

SALE OF GULF REFINERY IN MONTREAL—PRIME MINISTER'S ROLE

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It is a fact