

**An Hon. Member:** You told us five months ago that you had read it.

#### PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF MONTREAL REFINERIES

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the same Minister. Can he confirm that, as shown in the O'Farrell Report, because of the shutdown of three Montreal refineries by the previous Government, there is now a reduced production capacity of almost 50 per cent and that such a reduced capacity cannot cope with Quebec's consumption? If so, why is the Government pursuing a policy of shutting down the refinery in east-end Montreal?

[English]

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is misinformed in this area. The shut-down of the Gulf refinery will not in any way jeopardize the supply position in Quebec. The supply and demand position in Quebec is in balance. There is still surplus capacity in that province and it is expected to grow. Demand for oil in Quebec—

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

**Mr. Ouellet:** Table your report.

**Miss Carney:** I am sorry that the Hon. Members who raised this issue are unwilling to listen to the reply. The demand for oil in Quebec has dropped by 40 per cent in the last five years, 8 per cent in the last year alone. That will add to the surplus capacity.

The reason for this decline has been the \$800 million invested by the previous Liberal administration in projects such as natural gas pipelines, electricity projects and conservation projects. This has caused a decline in the demand for oil. The result of all of that is that there have been closures of refineries in Quebec, triggered by the actions of the Liberal Government then in power, and there is now adequate surplus capacity to meet the demands of Quebec for the foreseeable future.

I can also add that under the new regime of deregulation, Quebec is—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. That is a long response.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Since the Minister has decided to answer rather than the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I want to say that the Government cannot have it both ways. She has just said that there is a surplus of capacity in Quebec. The Minister who spoke about it two weeks ago said that there is a shortage of capacity. There is a complete contradiction.

#### REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF REPORT ON REFINING CAPACITY IN QUEBEC

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs indicated that

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the O'Farrell Report suggested there was a lack of capacity in terms of meeting the needs of the Province of Quebec, will the Government do the right and honest thing and produce that report for the House of Commons?

**Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, just to follow up on the question, as the Minister responsible has indicated, it is a quasi-judicial board and its report will be dealt with in the appropriate manner.

**Mr. Broadbent:** What does that mean?

**Miss Carney:** My own Department's figures—and I am the Minister responsible for Energy, Mines and Resources—

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

**Miss Carney:** —shows that there is a surplus capacity existing in Quebec, that there is imbalance and that, with the deregulation programs which this Government has introduced, Quebec is in the healthy position of being able to get oil and oil products from anywhere in the world at competitive prices. Right now the Gaspé region of Quebec is supplied from the Maritimes. Also the Abitibi region of Quebec is supplied from Ontario. There are all sorts of sources of supply for Quebec and I believe this issue is being raised in order to jeopardize the concerns of Quebecers.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister that the people of the Province of Quebec would like to meet their own needs with jobs in the Province of Quebec which were there before, before this Government shut down the refinery.

#### FUTURE OF GULF REFINERY

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Does he agree with the Minister who has just told the House that there is a surplus capacity in Quebec, or does he agree with the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that there is a shortage of capacity?

Finally, will the Minister take the steps necessary to keep that refinery open in the Province of Quebec now?

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member from Oshawa, I hope that he realizes when he is talking about the loss of jobs with respect to the closure of the Gulf refinery, or the possible closure of that refinery, the Ultramar committed investment of \$125 million is going to create, in itself, 4,500 person years of jobs in the Province of Quebec.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stevens:** I find it most remarkable that the two opposition Parties are putting the Gulf situation, which is the fourth refinery to be closed—the other three under the previous