

Oral Questions

plan. The only difference then was that you had to withhold all the funds.

If there is going to be a change in Ontario or in Manitoba, where there is also extra billing, let the provinces decide that. We have a Canada Health Act which we supported. The clause which the Member is referring to in his question was rejected by the House when he introduced it last time.

REQUEST FOR DIFFERENT SYSTEM

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely true that the clause that I am talking about was rejected before. However, when it was rejected before there was a hope expressed by the Minister himself, when he was on this side of the House, if I remember correctly, that no additional penalty system would be required. Since then the Premier of the Province of Ontario has said that they can go on paying indefinitely without providing the kind of system we think is necessary.

Will the Government now reconsider its position? If the Government of Ontario continues with its process, which is costing the people of Ontario \$1 million a week, will the Government of Canada show national leadership by introducing a different system to encourage the Government of Ontario to do the right thing through financial incentives?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the Leader of the NDP up to the present status. The assertion he makes is not correct. In fact, just the opposite has happened. There has now been a move in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick to reduce or eliminate extra billing, depending on the provincial case. In Ontario the percentage is going down. In Alberta the percentage is going down. Therefore the very assertion he makes that it is going up is wrong. I say to him that it might be an issue he would like to raise today, but it does not bear out in truth what has happened in the last year.

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● (1430)

PETRO-CANADA

DISPOSAL OF CANADA LANDS ACREAGE

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Petro-Canada is seeking to farm out vast amounts of acreage it holds in the Canada Lands to other oil and gas companies, regardless of whether these other companies are Canadian or foreign owned. Bill C-15 is doing away with the protection that we had for Canadianization under the Foreign Investment Review Act. Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm that the principle of 50 per cent Canadian ownership by 1990 is still a principle of the Government?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, in earlier statements, has been quite clear on the 50 per cent ownership question which the Hon. Member has raised. If he wants to explore that question more fully, perhaps he could do so with the Minister of Energy, upon her return.

CANADIANIZATION OF INDUSTRY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is reported to have said on only one occasion that she favours 50 per cent Canadianization by 1990. At the same time as she was reported as having said that, she also said: "I am not an intervenor; the oil and gas companies know the policy of the 50 per cent requirement of Canadianization". In view of the Government's hands off policy on Canadianization, how can the objective of 50 per cent Canadianization by 1990 be achieved?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member feels that he is confused about any statements issued by the Minister of Energy, he should take my suggestion and talk directly to her upon her return.

As far as the Canadianization goals in Canada are concerned, I think we are making great progress. I would invite the Hon. Member to read some of the stories that are coming out about Gulf Canada. He may find that there will be news very shortly concerning a move with respect to that company that, hopefully, will increase Canadianization quite dramatically.

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WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

HALL COMMITTEE REPORT—METHOD OF MAKING PAYMENTS

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and it concerns the committee of inquiry on Crow benefit payments. The Hall Committee has admitted that it made its recommendation for payment to the producer in spite of the lack of a consensus position among the groups who made submissions and, since this detracts considerably from the credibility of the recommendation, will the Minister assure the House that he will not proceed with legislation implementing this report without looking into the detrimental effects of the recommendation on producers?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I said in my press release yesterday that we intended to seek the views and the opinions of all producer groups and organizations throughout the country. This is a recommendation that has been advanced by the special committee of