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MP out of line, says PM

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney told the House of Commons last week that comments by Mississauga South MP Don Blenkarn on some financial issues did not represent government policy.

Blenkarn had said last week that the government would likely increase the excise tax on gasoline to make up for more than \$2 billion in revenue lost because of Ottawa's

energy deal with the West.

The veteran Tory MP also said Finance Minister Michael Wilson was under pressure to scrap several federal agencies such as the Business Development Bank, the Export Development Corporation, and the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Blenkarn chairs the parliamentary finance committee and that

group is reviewing the performance of those agencies.

In response to a question from the Opposition benches, Mulroney said Blenkarn was not speaking for the government when he made the statements. He added that Finance Minister Wilson, not the Commons finance committee chairman, speaks for the Conservative government.