

*Oral Questions*

Canada Post. Canada is becoming a country where the only place older people can be sure of finding work is the Senate or Supreme Court. Typical of many people who have approached me is a constituent who applied to Canada Post, not for a permanent position subject to mandatory retirement, but for a part-time, seasonal position. She was told that she was not eligible because she was over 65.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I have a question, please?

**Mr. Stackhouse:** This being contrary to government policy concerning age discrimination, what action can the Minister take to protect senior citizens' right to work?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I can say that Canada Post is presently reviewing this matter. I can assure my colleague that his concerns are well taken and they will be examined and considered.

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[Translation]

**THE ECONOMY**

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER OF FINANCE WILL PARTICIPATE  
IN MEETING OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AT LONDON

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the present crisis of the devaluation of the Canadian dollar and the increase in interest rates, which of course have some international impact, I would like to ask the Minister if he has been invited this time to take part in the meeting of the group of the five industrialized countries that will be held next January 18 and 19 in London?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member that I have been talking to Secretary Baker about this meeting. I have conveyed to him some of my concerns. I will be doing the same with other members of that group. There are five members in the group, the United States, U.K., Germany, France, and Japan. They are meeting for particular reasons, one of which is that they have by far the largest degree of trade and foreign exchange reserves. For that reason they are meeting as a steering committee in advance of the interim and development committee meetings which I will be attending later on this year.

● (1500)

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL INTERVENE TO SECURE  
INVITATION FOR CANADA

**Mr. Raymond Garneau (Laval-des-Rapides):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister. In view of the importance for Canada to take part in this second meeting of the group of five, has the Government made any representa-

tions to the President of the United States or to the White House and to other countries so that Canada, as a member of the group of seven, can at least be invited to discuss such an important issue which affects the value of the Canadian dollar and our international trade?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have indeed had discussions with appropriate officials, including President Reagan, about the exclusion of Canada from the group of five since its creation when the Leader of the Opposition was Minister of Finance of Canada.

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[English]

**CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Tuesday, January 14, 1986, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.

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**PRIVILEGE**

RIGHT OF MEMBER TO BE RECOGNIZED BY MR. SPEAKER FOR  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

**Mr. Speaker:** I am in receipt of a notice of a desire to raise a question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mr. Turner).

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very important question of privilege, and hope that you will give me an opportunity to express my view very briefly. We are all equal, Mr. Speaker, and you are the protector of our rights and privileges. As someone who is new in this House, I recognize that my knowledge of its traditions and procedures is limited. I do, however, believe that I must stand up for what I believe is fair and right.

Yesterday I asked for a supplementary question and was denied. Mr. Speaker, I have read some of the rulings of Speakers Jerome and Lamoureux on oral questions, and can only conclude that in today's context of real parliamentary reform, Speaker Lamoureux's ruling on March 6, 1973—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I do not like interrupting Members when they are raising questions of privilege, but I must ask the Member to come, not to the argument he wishes to make, if it is put before the House, but to the exact question of privilege he wishes to raise.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The independence and the enhancement of my role in the Chamber as a private Member, in fact that of private Members on all sides of this House, is changing. I submit to you, Sir, that my privilege of being treated equally during Question Period is being breached when I am not accorded, nor are my