

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, we proposed this change in the budget to avoid discrimination as regards life insurance. The insurance companies themselves suggested that we change our taxation procedure. Thus we believe that since that change was made last week, the situation will be fairer for those who save money through life insurance policies or other similar means.

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[English]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****LIBEL ACTIONS AGAINST MINISTERS—CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTER OF JUSTICE**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Has the minister been consulted by his colleagues, the Solicitor General and the Minister of Supply and Services, as to their legal position in respect of several libel actions registered against them in the courts, and is he still of the same opinion as was stated by him in the House last week in respect of this matter that the persons named in the Solicitor General's extra parliamentary opposition letter have not been harmed or injured in any way by this incident? Is it still his opinion, and has he been consulted by his two colleagues in their official capacity?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** No, I have not, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure whether I have read of the summons in the newspapers, and whether the writs in fact have been served I have not been advised. Obviously, when and if they are served, there will be communications either between my colleagues and myself or between my colleagues and my officials.

**PROPOSED TRIBUNAL TO ALLOW PUBLIC SERVANTS NAMED ON BLACKLIST TO CLEAR THEIR NAMES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** In view of the fact that writs of summons do reflect on public servants, has the Minister of Justice caused some investigation to be carried out in respect of this? I hope he would have done this at least as Attorney General. Is the minister now prepared to reconsider his refusal to consider a tribunal in which the persons who were named in connection with the extra parliamentary opposition can find access to redress and restitution so that the duty that the government has to all its public servants, but particularly in this case to those who have commenced legal proceedings, can be fulfilled without the necessity of an expensive and long legal process?

● (1430)

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would prefer that the writ or writs which have been issued be served before we deal with them.

[Mr. Gauthier (Roberval).]

**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM****POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT ON RESTRAINT WHEN CONTROLS END**

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. Following yesterday's talks with 15 business, labour and public interest groups would the Prime Minister indicate if he is more confident today of securing a binding agreement among economic decision-makers for voluntary restraint when controls end, or, if he is less confident there will be such an agreement, does he still hold to his belief that it would be folly to terminate controls without such an agreement?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I am somewhat more confident, Mr. Speaker.

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**ANTI-INFLATION ACT****DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF AMENDMENTS CONCERNING PAY AGREEMENTS—EFFORTS TO PERSUADE PEOPLE CONTROLS SHOULD BE REMOVED**

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Finance. Last Thursday during the debate on the controls question the minister indicated that, and I quote: "The government has decided to propose amendments to the Anti-Inflation Act to deem pay agreements to be amended to be in line with AIB decisions or those of the administrator". Would the minister indicate when he intends to introduce such amendments, and bearing in mind that it is likely the minister would want amendments passed before decontrol begins, would he also indicate the deadline he intends to suggest for the passage of those amendments?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the amendments would be introduced when the House reconvenes in the autumn. As to whether they will have received full parliamentary approval before the process of decontrol starts, that is something over which I do not have control. However, as I indicated in my statement last week, it would be the intention to introduce the amendments and, as with a budget document, they would have the same effectiveness from the introduction date as they would when the bill is ultimately passed.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, the minister also said last Thursday that, and I quote: "Widespread acceptance and support of controls are something of an embarrassment. The political problem is not to take them off but rather to persuade constituents that it is in their interests in the long run that they be removed". Would the minister indicate what steps he has taken or intends to take to persuade such constituents that it is in their interests to remove controls?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, that was very much the tenor of discussions between myself and my colleagues and the groups we met yesterday. What was interest-