

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** It is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that this question should be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It is no doubt a matter of fraudulent publicity. I suggest the question be put to the minister when he will be in the House.

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[English]

**THE BUDGET**

## DATE OF PRESENTATION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. As it is now over 40 days since the minister announced he would likely bring down the budget before the end of May and now that the minister's efforts to achieve consensus among labour and business have subsided, can the minister tell the House whether he has been successful in achieving consensus among the Prime Minister, his party House leader and himself as to when the budget will be presented?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, without accepting the tone of the preamble to the question asked by the hon. gentleman, I have to report to the House that because of the recent calling of the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at Brussels, the Prime Minister must be out of the country from May 27 to 31. Thus, he will not be available for the necessary consultations on the final decisions for an early budget as we had hoped. Shortly after his return from the NATO meeting, I myself am required to be in Paris to chair the special sessions of the interim committee of the International Monetary Fund. That committee has been assigned the responsibility for international monetary development in world trading and monetary patterns which are very important to Canada, especially following the oil crisis last year.

In the circumstances I now intend, after my return and after a period of intensive final preparation—

**Mr. Baldwin:** And prayer.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):**—to present the budget to the House a month from today on Monday evening, June 23.

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**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

## INFLATION—POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** In view of the uncertainty concerning the status of the consensus discussions shown by conflicting statements by the Prime Minister and the Acting Prime Minister today, would the minister indicate if the government plans to hold further consensus talks between now and June 23, will the minister be in charge of the discussions and, more specifically,

[Mr. Gauthier (Roberval).]

will he indicate to the House if the government will take a definitive position on guidelines on or prior to June 23?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** It is my understanding that further technical meetings have been held. I gave a full report on the consensus process in the House in response to a motion put by the parliamentary leader of the NDP and that was debated last week.

## MINISTER'S VIEW OF INCREASED TAXATION AS A BUDGETARY OPTION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** In our slowing economy with its rising unemployment as reflected in UIC payments now being predicted by the C. D. Howe Institute and the *Financial Times* as being \$3.3 billion to \$3.5 billion this year compared with \$2 billion last year, would the minister indicate whether the Prime Minister made a premature comment when he said that taxes would be rising in the budget in that rising taxes would mean a restrictive budget? In truth, is that a responsible option at the present time for the minister?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the Prime Minister's comment.

## SUGGESTION PRIME MINISTER NOT MAKE STATEMENTS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. It is a request. Will the Acting Prime Minister convey to the Prime Minister the view of this party that he confine himself for the rest of his tour to things with which he is familiar, such as swimming pools and chandeliers, and leave the serious issues of the economy to the Minister of Finance who, for all his defects, still has the constitutional responsibility?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I suggest to the House leader of the official opposition that all the expertise on swimming pools and chandeliers is on the other side of the House.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS**

## ALLEGATION ONTARIO UNHELPFUL REGARDING CHARGES AGAINST SEAFARERS INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Acting Prime Minister. Can he advise whether the Minister of Labour's comments on Wednesday that "Ontario authorities were strangely unhelpful" regarding allegations concerning the SIU were made with the full approval of the government or whether, in view of the specific denial issued yesterday by the acting solicitor general for the government of Ontario, will the Acting Prime Minister take this opportunity to clarify the unfortunate impression created by the Minister of Labour's remarks on Wednesday?