

*Oral Questions***HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**SUGGESTION HER MAJESTY BE ASKED TO OPEN OR CLOSE  
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In this year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second of Canada, in view of her intended stay among her Canadian subjects during the month of October, will the government follow the course that was taken by the then prime minister in 1957, the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, who invited Her Majesty, as he stated, so that Canadians on the whole would understand and appreciate that the Crown is an integral part of the parliament of Canada, and invite Her Majesty, as is being done now in Australia, to open parliament or, if the session is still in process, that it be concluded and she be asked to read the speech which is normally given at the conclusion of a session?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in reply to the right hon. gentleman, may I say that I referred to the incident he has mentioned in my statement on television, that during the right hon. member's period as prime minister I believe Her Majesty did open parliament and the occasion was televised. If we succeed in having television implemented in parliament—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacEachen:**—it would be a certain way of bringing the presence of Her Majesty in parliament within the view of all the people of Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEachen:** I make this point because I think it is quite relevant to the question asked by the right hon. gentleman. To my knowledge, the final arrangements with respect to the visit of Her Majesty to Canada have not yet been made, and certainly the suggestion made by the right hon. gentleman will be considered and related, if possible, either to the opening or closing of a session of parliament. I think it is a suggestion that is well worth considering.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman ended his reply in a way he usually does, with a suavity that quietsens all opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I ask him this: The excuse that we need to implement the recommendation to televise parliament in order to carry out my suggestion leads me to believe that he has forgotten that in 1957 when I came to office the Queen was here and the occasion was televised. Ever since, the opening of parliament has been televised.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Why is it necessary to add such extraneous matters as the excuse he has now raised? All that has to be

[Mr. Andras.]

done, as I suggest—and I hope the hon. gentleman will agree with me—is simply to carry on what has been done in the past, namely, to televise what happens in the Senate when parliament is either opened or closed by the Governor General.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I thought I was paying the right hon. gentleman a well deserved compliment by mentioning the fact that during his period as prime minister the presence of Her Majesty in parliament had been televised.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** And ever since.

**Mr. MacEachen:** But I look forward to an improved system of television—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacEachen:**—and that would make the event even more spectacular than the one to which he referred when he was prime minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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**HEALTH**GOVERNMENT ACTION TO IMPROVE DIET OF CANADIANS—  
POSSIBILITY OF STUDY SIMILAR TO ONE CONDUCTED IN  
UNITED STATES

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. A Nutrition Canada report released by the minister this week shows the general diet patterns in Canada to be similar to the ones identified by a major U.S. study released earlier this month by Senator McGovern which linked diet to six of the ten leading causes of death in that country. In light of the seriousness of this situation, as revealed in both this report and Senator McGovern's report, can the minister tell us what new initiatives he is planning to improve the Canadian diet?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, several initiatives are now under way. In the very near future we will be publishing a new Canadian food guide to replace the old one which will have been revised and brought up to date in terms of desirable eating habits for Canadians. In addition, there is a whole series of activities in the field of public information and education within the framework of my department's program "Vraie Vie". May I also mention the efforts made through leaflets and inserts put at the disposal of the public, leaflets sent with old age pension and family allowances cheques. There are also a number of publications made available to educators if they wish to use them.

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary.