

*Oral Questions***PARLIAMENT HILL****COST OF REPAIRING DAMAGE CAUSED BY ANCHORING  
BARRIERS ON DRIVEWAY**

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works, if somebody could wake him up. Having regard to the new security measures on the Hill, particularly the new method of anchoring barriers on the driveway in front of the House of Commons, I wonder if the Minister has an estimate of the costs to be incurred by the government to repair the many holes punched in the pavement?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must rule that question as being beyond the jurisdiction of the Minister of Public Works. It is the responsibility of the Speaker.

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[Translation]

**ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM****JURISDICTION OF BOARD OVER PRICE OF MEALS IN  
MONTREAL—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the fact that a Montreal daily reported this morning that the cost of meals will allegedly jump by 40 per cent, especially in the Montreal area as the result of the 1976 Olympic Games, could the minister tell the House whether he intends to ask the Anti-Inflation Board about those increases exceeding the allowable percentage and, if he has already done so, can he tell the House what control mechanisms will be developed in that connection?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I must point out that small businesses do not come under the Anti-Inflation Board or the anti-inflation legislation. Large businesses such as hotels of railway companies, are under the control of the board and the kinds of control are indicated in the regulations proceeding from the anti-inflation legislation.

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[English]

**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****ALLEGED WEAKNESS IN HOUSING AND CONSUMER SPENDING  
SECTORS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Finance in connection with the data provided by the Royal Bank's trendicator, which shows that the economy is growing more slowly than earlier estimated and showing the smallest quarter to quarter increase since the index resumed its upward trend in the first quarter of 1975. As the trendicator also shows that there is weakness in housing and consumer spending, may I ask the minister, in light of the disappointing indications in the economy, whether he has taken additional steps to increase construction of housing and consumer spending in Canada?

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the trendicator would appear to be directly contradicted by the national accounts for the first quarter which showed a growth rate of 2.7 per cent in the quarter.

**Mr. Stanfield:** No, no.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REPRESENTATIONS TO ANGOLA TO COMMUTE DEATH  
PENALTY OF MERCENARIES**

**Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister, please? Since it is apparently the will of the Canadian parliament that capital punishment in Canada is to be abolished, does the government intend to ask the government of Angola to commute the death sentences of the foreign nationals who were mercenaries there?

[Translation]

**Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I shall not take it upon myself to make remarks on the abolition of the death penalty in other countries. The fact is that, upon first reading newspaper reports on the condemnation to death of four mercenaries in Angola, some of us may find it revolting. We recognized the government of Angola and I shall convey the request of the hon. member and see if it might be possible to make representations, but I am not sure at all that we can.

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[English]

**POST OFFICE****ALLEGED BACKLOG OF FIRST CLASS MAIL AT VANCOUVER—  
GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of reports coming from the Vancouver post office to the effect that there is a backlog of at least one month's first class mail, that there is no indication of when or if it will be delivered and even if it is finally delivered, it will be delivered on a random basis, I ask what steps the Postmaster General plans to take to clear up this backlog and when he expects to be able to announce normal delivery of mail in Vancouver?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, we are reading different reports.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before calling routine proceedings, I might indicate that the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham raised a point a moment ago by way of a question which I set aside because it was addressed to the Minister of Public Works. In fact, what the hon. member raised is the responsibility of the Speaker. I do not by any means want to indicate that the decision taken today with respect to preparations outside was taken lightly or that hon. members ought not to be encouraged to seek information about those preparations. The decision was