

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should ask the right hon. member to withdraw that comment.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The facetiousness of the Prime Minister is exceeded only by his impertinence.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: The right hon. gentleman's facetiousness is demonstrated by what he—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I see that the Prime Minister is whispering his answer to the reporter. I remember other occasions when he whispered.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will be interested to learn what he said when we read *Hansard*. Whispering is one of his highest qualifications.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the right hon. member ask his supplementary question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister whether consideration is being given to a constitutional amendment. If it is not, it will be too late because at the rate these committees are meeting the whole matter will have been decided. Can he answer that?

Mr. Hees: Just yes or no.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I refer to what the Prime Minister said on January 11—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. gentleman asked a question and there was no reply. As the right hon. member knows, that is the prerogative of the minister who is being questioned. I do not think that the matter can be commented on further.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I know how this government treats the opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: I know how contemptuous the Prime Minister is when he refers to members on his own side of the House as bums.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask him whether it is in keeping with his position as the first minister of Her Majesty in the House to refuse—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: —to answer a question as to whether what he said on January 11, that it would require a constitutional amendment, is still his viewpoint and that he is doing something about it, or is he just whispering?

Mr. Hees: Just answer yes or no, if you please.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

POLLUTION**OIL SPILL, ALERT BAY, B.C.—COST OF CLEAN-UP—
ACTION TO SEIZE VESSEL**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and concerns the west coast oil spill. Will he tell the House approximately what the cost of the clean-up is, and has he taken any civil legal proceedings to seize the vessel, *Irish Stardust*, which is still in the harbour at Victoria, before the vessel leaves?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the last report I had is that it is going to take about two weeks before the oil on the beaches is cleaned up, so we do not have any idea of the price right now. The hon. member knows that the master appeared before the court and that a bond of \$20,000 has been deposited. I am waiting for the judgment of the court on this.

* * *

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**MEASURES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT IN QUEBEC—
SUGGESTED CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS
AND UNION LEADERS**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister.

As a quarter of a million Quebecers are now unemployed, has the government drawn up short term projects to reduce substantially the rate of unemployment in Quebec? If so, what are those projects and when will they be introduced?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I may answer the caucus leader of the two-member