

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin:—most ministers of a responsible government would not file or table papers only the day before a conference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I explained to the Leader of the Opposition two days ago what my restrictions were at that time, and to some extent I can understand the Chair's position in trying to find out who is the financial critic for the opposition.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Don Valley on a supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I might have an answer to my question.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman and I have discussed the philosophy of targets before.

Mr. Hellyer: Yes, and you have not answered.

Mr. Gillies: For clarification, Mr. Speaker, may I say that we did discuss it before, but what I want to find out is whether it is the position of the government that we can make sound economic policies in this country without specific goals and targets?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister may be anxious to reply, but I suggest that is the kind of question that cannot be asked and ought not to be replied to at this time.

CO-ORDINATION OF CAPITAL BORROWING WITH
PROVINCES

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, if we may get down to specifics, in light of the minister's repeated and I think justified concern about provincial borrowing abroad, would the minister report today on the progress, if any, on the proposal made previously about some practical inducement to the provinces to borrow more fully in Canada?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I dealt with the hon. member's question when his leader put it to me two days ago, suggesting that we had achieved an information centre for the capital requirements of the provinces—

Mr. Stanfield: That is more than we have achieved in this House.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):—and what they might need. I have not yet succeeded in persuading the provinces to co-ordinate their borrowing requirements both on Canadian capital markets and abroad, but that is a subject that will be discussed again on Thursday or Friday.

Mr. Lawrence: Is the government going to set up some machinery to assure the provinces that they will have

[Mr. Baldwin.]

access to sufficient funds in Canadian money markets at interest rates equal to what they have to pay abroad?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would think that the Canadian market in the last six months, particularly since I put the proposition to the provinces, has been sufficiently flexible and fertile for provincial borrowing requirements. As a matter of fact, their rate of borrowing abroad has dropped considerably since the first six months of last year.

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TRADE

IMPOSITION BY UNITED STATES OF DUTY ON MICHELIN
TIRES IMPORTED FROM CANADA—REQUEST FOR
TABLING OF PROTEST AND REPLY

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the important possible consequences of the recent American decision to impose a special duty on Michelin tires, and in view of the important need to have that decision reversed, would the minister table for hon. members the protest letter that was sent by the government of Canada to the United States and also at the same time table the reply, if one has yet been received?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to clarify a reply I gave the hon. member yesterday. A formal note went to the United States government last summer. There have been representations—

Mr. Broadbent: Last summer!

Mr. Gillespie: There have been representations since, and there will be a formal note going forward very shortly. I will give consideration to whether that note should be made public.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the fact the minister has waited almost two weeks to act in this matter, would he assure the House that not only will he consider tabling it but also, in view of the fact that I understand a protest has been sent to GATT, or at least that such a protest is being considered by the government, would he make a commitment to the House that that protest, in its exact wording, will be tabled?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I will take that representation under consideration as well.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

KILLING OF POLICEMEN—PLANS FOR REVISION OF BAIL
REFORM LAW

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and is prompted by the death of Constable James Lothian in Toronto recently and other attempted murders and deaths. In view of the