

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: Get to the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are, after all, getting into representation as opposed to a question. If the right hon. gentleman has a supplementary question I would ask him to put it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: You have heard the preamble to my question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I would ask the Prime Minister this. Speaking from conscience, will he not remove these particular sections to which I have made reference in connection with security so there can be a clear vote, with those of us who believe in doing away with the death sentence for murder being able to vote for the bill? As it is, with all the rest of provisions therein, that is almost impossible.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, in order to answer that question completely I would have to know whether the right hon. gentleman is speaking on behalf of his party.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

An hon. Member: It is a free vote.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: It is a free vote on this side, Mr. Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: But we don't know about your side.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fairweather: You better be careful; you need a few of us.

Mr. Trudeau: I do not need a few of you. Perhaps those people who might be hanged need a few of you.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Yes, you do need a few of us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: You will have to resign.

Mr. Trudeau: I repeat, Mr. Speaker, in order to answer—

Mr. Fairweather: You don't need us? Well, that is an announcement we will remember. Wait until second reading.

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member for Fundy-Royal is grumbling a bit too loudly.

Mr. Fairweather: I am grumbling because it is a free vote, and you need every vote you can get.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Have you lost touch?

Mr. Trudeau: I am surprised that the hon. member—

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

An hon. Member: Warren can't talk to his boss. He hasn't got his leather jacket on.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In view of the comments on both sides of the House it is impossible to hear the right hon. Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: You are not missing a whole lot.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. member for Fundy-Royal is going on a personal question rather than on the question of the issue as I think the issue is much more important. As to the question of the right hon. gentleman, I repeat that it would be interesting to know if he is making representations on behalf of his party—

An hon. Member: Oh, get off it.

Mr. Trudeau: —or is he speaking on behalf of a group of members of the other side who might be either abolitionists or retentionists according to whether or not we accept the suggestion. My question to him is a serious one, because the government—

An hon. Member: You are not asking questions.

Mr. Trudeau: —the government's position is that it wants to see this bill voted on freely and passed, and we obviously cannot begin to make exceptions to it.

An hon. Member: No exceptions.

Mr. Trudeau: Now the right hon. gentleman says "no exceptions". He has just been asking for an exception in his question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD**GUIDELINES FOR DEALING WITH MEMBERS' COMPLAINTS ABOUT PRICES**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and concerns the report released today that the Anti-Inflation Board is inviting consumer complaints and placing a form in supermarkets and financial institutions for this purpose. Considering the record of the AIB in respect of letters from members of parliament which are not being replied to when we bring price complaints to the attention of the board, and that the best we receive is a phone call saying everything has been looked after without our really knowing what has happened, may I ask the Minister of Finance what guidelines have been laid down by the AIB regarding members' complaints about price increases? If the AIB does not have such guidelines, does the minister have some? What action will the minister take to assure the House that today's announcement is a serious attempt on the part of the AIB to deal with prices and listen to complaints rather than just being another public relations job?