

tary of State for External Affairs is having meeting Canada's commitment to the United Nations of \$15 million for Cambodian relief, and the fact that a substantial part of this money is being taken from the boat people to whom it was given after it was taken from Canadian employment programs, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Pelletier):

That the President of the Treasury Board reconsider the efforts of the Secretary of State for External Affairs to get such a relatively small amount of money appropriated, and not pursue his present course of telling her to take relief money from one group of starving people so that she can give it to another group of starving people.

Mr. Speaker: This motion can be presented for debate only with unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

REQUEST FOREIGN AID BE WITHHELD FROM TANZANIA—
MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Wightman (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, I rise, under the provisions of Standing Order 43, on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. Given that the government of Tanzania has confiscated the property of S. Hassanali, a Canadian citizen, and that, despite having acknowledged this debt in writing, the government of Tanzania has withheld payment for more than three years. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Scarborough East (Mr. Gilchrist):

That the Government of Canada withhold foreign aid from the government of Tanzania until restitution has been made to Mr. Hassanali and any other Canadian citizen who has suffered confiscation of property and funds at the hands of the government of Tanzania, and that in determining which countries shall receive assistance, Canada's foreign aid policy take full account of unlawful actions perpetrated against Canadians.

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the presentation of this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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● (1415)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SPEAKER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Mr. Speaker: Before beginning the oral question period, I invite hon. members to join with me in signalling the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished visitor in the person of my colleague from the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, newly-elected Speaker Robert H. MacQuarrie.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

BUDGET SECRECY—SPECULATION IN TV PROGRAM

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the very serious speculation on television last night to the effect that there was to be a serious change in the level of corporate taxes in the budget tonight, can the Prime Minister assure the House that the necessary measures were taken for tonight's budget to ensure that there was no leak, because these things can lead to a lot of speculation in the market?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance was concerned about any speculation upon the contents of the budget. He has looked into the matter and he is satisfied that, in fact, all the traditional precautions have been taken to prevent any advance leak of elements of the budget.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, can the right hon. Prime Minister assure this House that there was absolutely no discussion about the level of the increase in gasoline tax that, it is speculated, will be implemented tonight, in view of the fact that the oil industry decided to jump the gun on the government last week and increase its prices before the government in its budget tonight increases the level of prices of gasoline in Canada?

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House and the hon. member that there has been no discussion of the level of any increases although, as the hon. member will know, there has been extensive speculation for some time about price increases of various kinds.

BUDGET SECRECY—NEWS REPORTS ON INCREASE IN PRICE OF
GASOLINE

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and follows on those asked by my colleague. At the very least there is a general expectation of a hefty raise in the excise tax on gasoline this evening. In light of the very precise news reports this morning that the increase will be 25 cents a gallon, and in light of reports that some service stations across the country—perhaps many—already are raising their prices today in anticipation of this tax increase tonight, can the Prime Minister tell us what steps the government will take to protect consumers in this situation?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not really quite sure what information that question was designed to elicit. Naturally, I will not comment upon speculative stories which have appeared. I think it would be wise as a general rule in the case of this budget, as in the case of past