

## Oral Questions

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## PRICE INCREASES—REQUEST THAT FREEZE BE IMPOSED

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to get back to consumer price increases. My question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of his comment a few moments ago that he and the government are considering the establishment of a food prices review board, in view of the fact that the staggering consumer price index increase revealed today covers all items and not just food, and bearing in mind the possibly unfortunate results of his remarks today, will he indicate to the House now, following the precedent of the freeze just put on Bell Canada rates, that the government will impose today a freeze on all incomes, costs and prices?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank this hon. member too for the policy suggestions he is drawing to the attention of the government.

\* \* \*

## HOUSING

INCREASE IN SHELTER PRICES—REQUEST FOR  
TEMPORARY FREEZE TO HELP THOSE ON LOW AND  
FIXED INCOMES

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, in light of the answer the Prime Minister has just given I should like to zero in on one subject that is very important and in respect of which I think there is a national crisis. Will he now accept that there is a national shelter crisis in Canada in light of the fact that last year the increase was a big 5.9 per cent and there was a further increase last month, and is he prepared to use the crisis theory under our constitution and bring in at least a temporary freeze on shelter costs, namely, the cost of construction and the cost of land, to help particularly those people on low and fixed incomes at this time? I suggest there is a crisis and that the people are looking for some action.

• (1200)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, you will realize that these are very far-reaching suggestions that I am receiving from various hon. members opposite. I can do no more at this time than thank them very deeply for their assistance in studying this very serious problem. I hope they will not expect me to answer to shooting from the hip such worth-while and far-reaching suggestions. We will consider them.

SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON BUILDING  
MATERIALS TO LOWER COST OF SHELTER

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, this question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. This is the thousandth time it has been asked and it is still important. Would he now consider the repeal of the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials because the price of some building materials has risen by as much as 100 per cent, which means that the tax today, if it is related to

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

when it was implemented, is really 22 per cent and not 11 per cent?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has asked the question. Perhaps the latter part was an argument in support of his question.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is still no, and I find my view supported by the newly elected president of the Lumber Association of Ontario who does not feel that the removal of the sales tax will have the effect the hon. member seeks.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. This is debate between the hon. member and the minister. The hon. member for Champlain.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## CRIMINAL CODE

## ABORTION—POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENTS

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice.

Could he tell us whether he intends during this session of parliament to alter the Criminal Code provisions on abortion?

[English]

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** No, Mr. Speaker.

\* \* \*

## INCOME TAX

## DATE WHEN REFUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE

**Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. It is pursuant to a statement made by the hon. member for Edmonton West yesterday in his speech, as recorded at page 3005 of *Hansard*, in which he stated that taxpayers entitled to reimbursements will have to wait until June or July in order to obtain their refunds. Will the minister tell us when these reimbursements will be made?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton West is quite incorrect. We are processing these returns as they come in and refunds, dependent on the current budget bills, will go out within two weeks after these very welcome measures of Liberal tax relief become law.

\* \* \*

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOOD PRICE INCREASES—REQUEST THAT MOTION FOR  
CONCURRENCE IN FIRST REPORT OF SPECIAL  
COMMITTEE BE PROCEEDED WITH

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question supplementary to one asked before. I would like to direct it to the President of the Privy Council. In light