

*Oral Questions*

ry Council of Senior Citizens and the National Action Committee on the Status of Women—which have been urging the Government to make the spouse's allowance available to all needy persons living alone and aged 60 to 64, so as to avoid discrimination against single and separated persons as well as widows?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is not a newcomer to this House. I am delighted that, being now in the Opposition, he is finally showing interest in matters about which he was unconcerned when sitting on the Government benches. Surely he appreciates that he must wait until the Budget is brought down before we can comment on it, and that the Budget to be tabled next week has been the subject of more consultations than ever before in the history of Canada.

## CONSULTATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** With respect to the remarks of the Minister, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that I have a respectable reputation, but that he is known to be prone to blunder.

Here is my supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. How can you expect the people and Hon. Members to have faith in this bragging Government when the Minister talks about having more consultations now that consultations did take place? Witnesses appeared before the committee to urge the Minister of National Health and Welfare to eliminate discrimination against elderly Canadians. How can you expect Canadians to react positively to the Government's consultation process if you fail to come up with answers?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I repeat that as far as the contents of the Budget is concerned, the Hon. Member knows he has to wait until it is brought down.

Second, with respect to the other Government policy, as the Minister of Finance pointed out and as the Government has often indicated since coming into office, we are prepared to consult and talk directly to people who are worried, and we seek their advice. Concerning the points raised by the Hon. Member, I can only hope that the Liberals will show a willingness to hold public consultations, something which is not apparent in the field of international relations where the Liberal Party wants to deny—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

● (1200)

[English]

## NATIONAL REVENUE

## DEPARTMENT'S POWERS OF SEARCH AND SEIZURE

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a very short question to the Minister of National Revenue.

**Mr. Beatty:** Hurray!

**Mr. de Jong:** As the Minister will no doubt have noticed, last week the Law Reform Commission made some important recommendations concerning the tremendous powers of search and seizure his Department has. When in opposition, almost one year ago today the Minister invited the Government to introduce legislation which would do away with those powers. He assured the Government of the day that the legislation would be passed within a day. I am giving the same assurance to the Minister now. Will he introduce legislation which will take away that awesome power from his officials and bureaucrats?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, weekday after lonely weekday I sit here waiting for questions from my hon. friend. However, this is worth it, and I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. The answer is yes, I will, and yes, I will be delighted to receive the Hon. Member's support. I have already limited the powers of the Department under Section 231(4); we are now seeking search and seizure warrants under the Criminal Code. We will be introducing amendments which will curtail the powers of the Department under Section 231. It is our goal to ensure that they are brought into line with basic civil liberties, and I appreciate the Hon. Member's support.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear! /

**Mr. Broadbent:** No more questions for you this year, Simon!

**Some Hon. Members:** More!

**Mr. Nunziata:** By unanimous consent, they want more questions.

**Mr. Speaker:** A lot of people around here want more, I have noticed.

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## CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, May 16, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.