

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Clark:** Surely the Minister of Finance must know; perhaps he can brief the Prime Minister on the date. We would like to know the date of the budget. Also we would like to know, if the Prime Minister could address his mind to it, what the Government of Canada will do to help, among others, one of the groups of victims most acutely hurt by the disinterest of his government, by the refusal of the Liberal government to care about the economy, the Canadians who are being forced out of their homes.

I remind the Prime Minister that his own throne speech indicated that the government will act to assist those unable to bear the burden of renegotiating their home mortgages in the present abnormal situation so that the spectre of foreclosure can be avoided. That spectre of foreclosure has become a reality to hundreds of thousands of Canadians across the country. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether there will be, in the budget that ministers refuse to announce the date of, specific help by the Government of Canada for those Canadians who are being forced out of their homes. Will that be a part of the budget whenever the budget comes down?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is asking me to tell him, before the budget date, what will be in the budget. I am sure he would be the first to complain that I was breaking the conventions of this House—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:**—by letting out budget secrets. He himself has had some experience as prime minister, and he knows that budgets are only known on the dates that they are read by the Minister of Finance.

## REQUEST FOR DETAILS OF ASSISTANCE

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister well knows that while he might be sitting in some comfort, a lot of Canadians across the country are not, and that many Canadians now who are forced to consider renewal of their mortgages—and there will be half a million of them in the next twelve months—need to know immediately. They cannot wait for whatever date is in the mind of the Minister of Finance; they cannot wait for the Prime Minister to turn his attention back to Canadian affairs. They need to know immediately what kind of help will be offered. The Minister of Housing has said one thing. It has been contradicted by the Minister of Finance.

Could not the Prime Minister indicate to the House now that there will be help for Canadians who will be forced out of their homes? Can he not tell the House of Commons and the people of Canada who are waiting for his word, now that he is back in the country, what kind of help will be available to them to stop them from being forced out of their homes, forced to give up their investment, forced to abandon their future, because the Liberal Party does not care about the economy of the country?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the reason is obvious why the Leader of the Opposition wants me to tell what is in the budget before the budget date. The Leader of the Opposition is very anxious to start making speeches that he plans to make during the budget debate. I encourage him to continue to rehearse those speeches. I am sure he can improve them.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I think the House will realize that his third question is an exact repetition of his second. He wants to know whether the budget will contain certain things, and I repeat that it is against the conventions of this House to say what is in the budget before the budget is brought down.

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[Translation]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CO-OPERATION OF MOROCCO

**Madam Speaker:** I have the honour to call the attention of the House to the distinguished presence in the gallery of His Excellency M'Hamed Boucetta, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of Morocco, to whom I extend a warm welcome.

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● (1430)

## THE ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR A MEASURE TO OFFSET HIGH INTEREST RATES

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question will also be directed—

**Some hon. Members:** He has not changed—

**Mr. La Salle:**—Madam Speaker, those opposite have not changed, and in view of the way things are going in Canada, I came back just in time.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. La Salle:** My question is supplementary to those asked by my leader to the Right Hon. Prime Minister, whom I salute, and he has certainly noted since his return from his travels that the present economic situation is a major concern to thousands of Quebecers and Canadians especially with regard to interest rates.

The Prime Minister has refused to reassure the home owners and tenants who will be faced with great hardship and guaran-