

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, I discussed this matter with the president of the corporation, and I thought he had sent his answer directly to the hon. member. I shall look into this, and if no answer was sent, I shall make sure the hon. member is given a reply as soon as possible.

[English]

QUERY RESPECTING DETAILS OF DECISION

Mr. Bud Bradley (Haldimand-Norfolk): Madam Speaker, my question was not whether the minister thought that the president of Canada Post Corporation had sent me an answer. My question concerned what answer did he get from the president when he discussed the matter, as he promised on March 1. I again ask the minister whether a decision has been arrived at, and has a correcting directive been sent out?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Madam Speaker, this is an internal management matter that concerns the new Canada Post Corporation. I shall look into it and give the hon. member an answer.

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[English]

THE ECONOMY

QUERY RESPECTING GOVERNMENT PLANS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance who, along with the Minister of Justice, has now indicated they are going to be accepting my advice on economic policies.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark: That being the case, will the minister tell us when he intends to introduce an energy tax credit, a mortgage tax credit, and when he plans to re-invigorate the small business development bond, and withdraw the November budget?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition misunderstood my reply. Far from giving an endorsement to his economic policies, I did express a certain amount of sympathy for a view which I understand he recently expressed to the effect that he found certain polls shallow. I just have a certain amount of sympathy for that view, but for his economic policies I would hesitate even to have any sympathy.

REQUEST THAT GENERAL ELECTION BE CALLED

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, will the Minister of Finance in his position as Acting

Prime Minister give the people of Canada an opportunity to choose between his economic policies and mine?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, we did create that opportunity for the Canadian people to choose between the right hon. gentleman's economic policies and our economic policies, and I do not think the Leader of the Opposition has ever forgiven us for that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

QUEBEC COURT ORDER FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENT IN TRIAL OF RCMP OFFICERS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is supplementary to those that have been directed to the Solicitor General. The minister will know that a justice of the Superior Court in the province of Quebec has ordered a defence witness to bring a document to the court. Is he aware that in preventing that document from reaching that court he is defying the court, and denying justice to a Canadian before that court who is seeking evidence in his defence?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member is aware that it would be improper for me to comment on the evidence that is being asked for or being given before that trial that is now taking place in Montreal. I have been following the proceedings in the court. I know the document was searched for by the RCMP, and the witness from the RCMP went to give evidence about it.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): The minister will be aware that he is obstructing justice in this country, and from a Solicitor General it is almost as bad as if the Minister of Justice were obstructing justice.

REQUEST THAT JUDGE BE PERMITTED TO SEE DOCUMENT

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is whether the minister will consider allowing that document to be presented to the judge for the judge to decide whether that document and its contents are relative to the course of justice and fairness to a Canadian who is being tried in that court.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, as I understand the law, when it is a question of a document which deals with national security or with international relations, the responsibility of the minister is to make his own assessment of the document and not to put it before the court. If the law were different I would follow that different law, but the law is as it is, and I followed it as I understand it.