

*Oral Questions*

## MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough):** Madam Speaker, I would like to follow my first question with a supplementary. Is the Minister comfortable with the thought that while employees of the Government under the Northern Pipeline and the National Energy Board received 13.1 per cent and 13.9 per cent salary increases in the same period of time, the people he employs, who were unemployed, received 3 per cent per year?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, what I am comfortable with is the fact that, through the initiatives of the Government, just since about one year ago we were able to bring the inflation rate down from well over 12 per cent to 6 per cent now, which will provide a tremendous amount of relief and support to all Canadians right across the country.

**Mr. Lewis:** How is your unemployment rate?

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## NATIONAL SECURITY

## ISSUANCE OF SURVEILLANCE WARRANTS—ANNUAL RENEWAL

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, last week the Solicitor General was widely quoted in the media as indicating that there were many people in Canada against whom Solicitors General surveillance warrants had been permanently issued. Is the Solicitor General now claiming that he was widely misquoted in those statements, or has he drastically altered the system which was in effect in 1980 when he took office, whereby each one of those warrants had to be reviewed and reissued at least every calendar year?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada):** Madam Speaker, as my predecessor in office knows quite well, there is no authority under the Act for permanent warrants to be issued. In fact the articles which reported that some Canadians were under lifetime surveillance were quite inaccurate. I indicated that there were some warrants which were in place permanently, in the sense that they were renewed, but the Hon. Member is quite right in saying that they must be renewed every year. I am glad to have the opportunity to indicate that none of those warrants, and it is a rather small number which is renewed on a regular basis, are outstanding against Canadian citizens.

## PLANTING OF ELECTRONIC INTERCEPTIVE DEVICES

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question to the Solicitor General also relates to some past history. He will know that when he took office in 1980, no Solicitor General's warrant authorized any surreptitious entry for the placing of an intrusive device. Has he changed that procedure as well?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada):** The Hon. Member, Madam Speaker, is incorrect about that matter. It is my view that the warrant authorizing the planting of an

electronic intercept includes in it the right to enter surreptitiously. That view has been sustained by the law officers of the Crown. It has been supported—

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** That's not what Justice Spence said.

**Mr. Kaplan:** —by two outside legal opinions which I obtained following my release of the report of the McDonald Commission. As far as I can see, there is no way in which a device can be planted pursuant to a Solicitor General's authorization under Section 16 of the Official Secrets Act. Is the Hon. Member suggesting that when he authorized electronic intercepts to be placed, he asked members of the Security Service to obtain the permission of the target? The suggestion is ridiculous.

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● (1440)

## AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

## NEGOTIATIONS OVER JAPANESE MANUFACTURED CAR IMPORTS

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for International Trade. At the end of this month the voluntary agreement with the Japanese on the importing of Japanese manufactured cars will run out. Can he tell the House what the present status of the negotiations is between Canada and Japan over limiting imports of Japanese cars? Can he tell us exactly what he has achieved to date, since he has now been the Minister for some ten months? Can he tell us what he has been able to achieve? What is the status of the negotiations, and will he state whether or not there will be more than just a temporary agreement with the Japanese this time around?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, in answer to the latter part of my hon. friend's question about what I have achieved, I would have to say that I have always been taught that self praise is poor recommendation.

I want to say to him that the six-months restraint agreement that we achieved with Japan in relation to the import of automobiles was a marked reduction, as the Hon. Member will remember, over the number that had come into the country during the same period in the previous year. I guess that is progress.

In relation to the present negotiations, I would have to say to the Hon. Member that what I am seeking is to have an agreement in place by July 1. I am seeking to have an agreement that will run for at least the rest of the fiscal year. That is not just to January 1, but to March 31, so that the term of our agreement would expire at the same time as the agreement which the United States has with Japan. The Japanese cannot then stall our negotiations for any renewal on the claim that they are waiting to complete negotiations with the larger