

Oral Questions

published before it went out of existence so they will be made available to the committee as soon as this material can be published.

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES**HIRING BY PAROLE COMMISSION OF PSYCHIATRIST
DISCHARGED BY PINEL INSTITUTE**

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, if the music can stop I might be able to ask my question. Furthermore, I regret that the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe has not already asked the question I now wish to direct to the Solicitor General.

Would he know if the psychiatrist dismissed by the Pinel Institute because of his shady part in the Réal Chartrand case is now employed by the National Parole Board? If so, how can he explain such a situation?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of this situation but I will inquire into it as quickly as possible and report to the House.

[Later:]

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary. Further to the question of the hon. member for Charlevoix, I would like to know if the Solicitor General apprised himself of the conclusions of the investigation concerning the Pinel Institute before hiring this psychiatrist, and could he tell the House if the department has established basic criteria for hiring personnel, and if this new psychiatrist, fired by the Pinel Institute, has been hired according to his department's criteria, if any?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have not received such a report. I should point out that the Pinel Institute is a provincial institute, although we have referred certain people there. I will look into this and report to the House as soon as possible.

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TAXATION**POSSIBILITY OF REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON BUILDING
MATERIALS**

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the minister changed his mind about removing the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials in view of the alarming increase in housing costs for ordinary citizens?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kent-Essex.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question. Just a few days ago the minister said he was not intending to remove this tax. My supplementary is—

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Who said?

[Mr. Gray.]

Mr. Hellyer: You did. You said you had no intention of removing the tax.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should address himself to the Chair.

Mr. Hellyer: Does the minister think it is fair that Americans can buy Canadian lumber cheaper than Canadians can because their taxes are less oppressive than ours?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is clearly argument. I do not think a question asked in those terms is in order.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER POLICIES TO LOWER
CONSUMER PRICES AND INCREASE PRODUCER RETURNS**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact the government's twin policies to lower consumer prices and increase producer returns by the extermination of millions of laying hens, fining dairymen for producing milk and paying farmers for not producing have not been successful in either direction, can the minister indicate whether the government is considering any more policies of this kind?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government is constantly attempting to develop and put into place policies that will serve the interests of all Canadians.

Mr. Baldwin: What you want is non-laying hens.

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY**OLD AGE PENSIONS—PRESENTATION OF AMENDING
BILL**

Mr. Heward Graffey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

As today's announcement about prices deeply affects old people and those living on a fixed income, can the minister tell the House if the new Old Age Pensions Act has been prepared, when it will be introduced and what immediate measures can be expected concerning food and drug prices, for those who are affected?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the government leader has already indicated the government's intentions concerning the presentation of legislation on this subject.