

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will realize that there are two or three disabilities in the same question: anticipating legislation, and ending with an argument. He may want to put a supplementary.

Mr. Axworthy: Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise a question with the minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: Is the government prepared to accept amendments to the legislation to provide assistance in the housing field, or will it simply provoke an election as the Minister of Finance indicated last night?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I might reply to the first candidate—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark:—this government, naturally, will consider reasonable amendments, just as this government, naturally, will resist any efforts at obstruction which would deny Canadians the advantage of this tax credit proposal next year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[*Translation*]

SOCIAL SECURITY

BILL C-20—PROVISIONS RESPECTING OLD AGE PENSIONERS AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

Mrs. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

I believe the matter we are discussing is serious enough for hon. members to listen to my question. I ask the Prime Minister whether, while reconsidering amendments to Bill C-20, he is prepared to give assistance to tenants, particularly to elderly and single-parent families, when amending this bill.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as I just stated, we are prepared to consider serious amendments to our bill. However, we hope there will be a determination on the part of opposition parties to grant speedy passage of this bill so that Canadians can benefit from our tax credit program next year.

[*Mr. Axworthy.*]

ENERGY

INQUIRY CONCERNING GOVERNMENT POLICY ON TRANSFER TO PROVINCES OF HOME INSULATION PROJECTS

Mr. Henri Tousignant (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister.

At the recent federal-provincial conference held last week he mentioned that he was prepared to consider transferring to the provinces the various home insulation programs. Could the Prime Minister clearly state the policy of his government on this?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the policy, as I asserted during the conference of first ministers, is that this is something we are prepared to consider as part of a general agreement with the provinces, aimed at making progress toward energy self-sufficiency.

Mr. Tousignant: Mr. Speaker, on a supplementary, can the Prime Minister tell us where the government will stand in case of conflict once Canada has turned all these jurisdictions over to the provinces, given the fact that powers do not fall from heaven and that the federal government will not have any power left? What will be the position of the federal government to reconcile provinces when difficulties or disagreements arise?

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the hon. member speaks on behalf of his party when he suggests that we cannot consider changing the administration of the home insulation program to help facilitate its implementation. The idea is to have the most efficient and effective program possible and we think that we could certainly be more efficient without this transfer being a loss of jurisdiction and power.

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[*English*]

MULTICULTURALISM

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING IN ETHNIC PRESS

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism. I should like to ask the minister if he is aware that since the last election the Government of Canada has cut very substantially—it is estimated, by about 90 per cent—its advertising in Canada's ethnic newspapers. Will he look into it, and will he take steps to support government support for this extremely vital voice in Canada's multicultural communities?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Steven E. Paproski (Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport and Multiculturalism): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am aware of what the hon. member is talking about. We are looking at the advertising which is to go into the 220 ethnic