

particular, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald):

That this House expresses its firm opposition to any such proposal and to any tampering, meddling, tinkering or fiddling with the indexation provisions as they affect personal income tax.

Madam Speaker: For presentation, this motion requires the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

* * *

● (1415)

THE LATE HON. JUDY V. LAMARSH

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

Madam Speaker: Order, please. It is with grief that we have heard of the death of the Hon. Judy LaMarsh, Privy Councillor and a former member of this House.

I am sure that all hon. members will want me to express publicly our sympathy to her friends and relatives.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

INQUIRY WHETHER SECRET CONSULTATIONS HELD WITH NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last Friday the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre asked the Minister of Finance whether a story in Friday's *The Globe and Mail* by Jeff Carruthers resulted from a budget leak and expressed concern that such a leak could, and I quote "have repercussions on the stock market".

Careful reading of the article shows the hon. member's real concern since it reveals that secret consultations were held between the NDP and the government regarding the budget.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: You are really getting desperate!

Mr. Andre: It seems that the NDP are prepared to accept Mr. Carruthers' article, at least partially.

Can the Minister of Finance indicate to the House that this new organic understanding has reached the point where there are these discussions or consultations with their new partners, albeit surreptitiously, not only on the constitution but also on the budget?

Oral Questions

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, there was a time when I used to conduct secret consultations with members of the New Democratic Party, but I have not done that in connection with the budget. I rather regret those exchanges which were so beneficial for Parliament.

Mr. Broadbent: That was when you were progressive—six years ago.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, a supplementary question. On Friday the Minister of Finance refused to categorically deny that there has been a budget leak when the subject was broached to him by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. It was a very serious accusation. I do not know now if the minister has made a categorical denial or not that there had been discussions with the New Democratic Party. We certainly know that there have been some secret discussions on some very important national questions. Would he here and now categorically deny that there has been any leak or that there have been discussions with the New Democratic Party on questions of a budgetary nature?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I have no hesitation in categorically denying that there have been discussions with the New Democratic Party or with any other group with respect to the contents of the budget, except the normal representations that are made by interested groups prior to the budget.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacEachen: I have had no representation, except by way of radio, from the New Democratic Party as to what they would like to see in the budget.

Mr. Broadbent: It is pretty secret.

Mr. MacEachen: With respect to the alleged budget leak, it seems to me, Madam Speaker, that it is premature to characterize any statement as a leak until we see the budget. The day following the presentation of the budget the hon. member may wish to complain about the article in question or maybe he will not, but that opportunity will be available to him.

Mr. Andre: Madam Speaker, while accepting the minister's word that he has not had these secret consultations, I would point out that he does need to have consultation in order to learn that the New Democratic Party is opposed to indexing and is in favour of de-indexing the income tax system.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Andre: Does this new concurrence with the New Democratic Party mean that the minister feels that, with the support of the New Democratic Party, he now has the necessary support to go ahead with this Draconian measure which is most unfair, immoral and improper?

Mr. MacEachen: Madam Speaker, I believe I will have support for the budget, enough to carry it through the House without the support of the New Democratic Party.