

response to the views that were expressed by the Overview Committee. I can imagine the howls of protest we would hear from the hon. member if the government failed to make a considered response to the recommendations of the Overview Committee. This is a very serious response and ought to be regarded as such. I am surprised that it could or would be interpreted in any way as a pre-election document.

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS RESPECTING APPEAL AND REPARATION IN CASE OF PETER TREU

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice with regard to the Peter Treu case. While I assume the minister has not yet had a chance to obtain and read the full record of the reasons for judgment, I imagine that as a good minister he at least telephoned and knows some of the reasons for judgment.

While the minister did not have the chance to hear the appeal, as I did, I would ask if he would, under the conditions that exist, make a clear statement that it is not the intention of this government to appeal that decision, and that the government will give very serious consideration to the question of making reparation for the very tragic and serious damage which has been sustained by Dr. Treu as a result of the experiences which, from my observation in reading the evidence, appear to result from bureaucratic bungling and ineptitude.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that we obtained a copy of the judgment at noon today. I instructed the law officers of the Crown to examine this judgment immediately and to report to me as expeditiously as possible. I expect to be able to answer the hon. member very soon indeed.

As to the second part of his question, I would indicate to him, as I am sure he knows, that in that instance, as in many other instances of prosecutions before the courts, there was a preliminary inquiry at which a prima facie case was found with regard to the possibility of an offence having been committed. Second, there was a judgment at the trial division convicting of an offence. This judgment has now been reversed by the Court of Appeal. That is where the matter stands at this time. This is the way the rule of law applies in this country.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Before making a decision in that regard, I trust the minister will bear in mind that investigations were launched and took place over a year and a half, costing several hundred thousand dollars. The government was prepared to spend that much money in this case.

My supplementary question is this. Bearing in mind that this decision follows several decisions of courts in the United Kingdom dealing with the Official Secrets Act, and that in both countries the courts have universally taken exception to

#### Oral Questions

the rather heavy-handed and frequently intimidating and discriminatory use of the Official Secrets Act by governments in both countries in using this act, will the minister agree with the words of one British justice that it is about time parts of this act should be pensioned off?

● (1440)

Would he also agree that a committee should be appointed to examine these decisions and this act and recommend to the House that this medieval legislation be brought into conformity with modern ideas of equity and justice?

**Mr. Lalonde:** As the hon. member has indicated, the Official Secrets Act goes back many years in both countries. At the present time, a committee of officials is at work reviewing the Official Secrets Act. It has been engaged in this work for the last few months. I hope its review will be concluded in the next while and that it will lead to proposed amendments which would be brought before the House for study and improvement if possible.

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#### NATIONAL REVENUE

##### ALLEGED DUMPING OF SOVIET-MADE AUTOMOBILES ON CANADIAN MARKET—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary.

In view of the fact that Soviet-made Lada automobiles are selling on the Canadian market for approximately \$4,000 each, and that apparently the retail price in the Soviet Union is approximately \$10,000, would the hon. gentleman have this matter investigated and, if the price gap is confirmed, take the necessary steps leading to the imposition of anti-dumping duties on these cars?

[Translation]

**Mr. Yves Demers (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business)):** Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the hon. member that there has been no formal investigation to determine if there is dumping of these vehicles. This type of investigation under the Anti-dumping Act would normally be undertaken at the request of Canadian vehicle manufacturers. To date, there has been no such request.

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[English]

#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to return, if I may, to the subject of the