

*Oral Questions*

## GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister. Yesterday, given that Bill Hopper, president of Petro-Canada, told the House of Commons energy committee that he was interested, to use his words, in some of the assets of Dome, what is the Government's policy? The June 30 deadline is coming up. Is the Government prepared to let Dome go bankrupt, lose all those jobs in western Canada and cause all those problems, or will the Government act and get a Canadian solution now for Dome?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I repeat that it was the action taken by the previous Government under the National Energy Policy which created the problems we are now facing, especially as far as Dome is concerned.

What this Government is now doing is to ensure that Dome will have an economically realistic future in the energy sector.

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## TAX REFORM

## TAX ON FOOD—PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Prime Minister in connection with statements made by the Minister of Finance concerning the tax reform. People in Canada, especially senior citizens and families, have been wondering ever since the tax reform was announced, the new tax, whether—if only the Prime Minister would stop talking and laughing, and listen to the questions we are asking—

I should like to ask the Prime Minister, and Canadians would like to know: Will the Prime Minister speak out against any sales tax on food, a sales tax on bread and butter? Will the Prime Minister reject such a measure?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, will the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie stop scaring people with this kind of question!

Nowhere in the White Paper is there any reference to a tax on food. The Minister of Finance has been quite clear. There is no question of taxing food in the White Paper. We will be consulting the provinces concerning three possible sales tax formulas.

## TAX ON FOOD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, either the President of the Treasury Board cannot read or he did not read the document. The document entitled *Sales Tax*, pages 10 and 11, shows what the consequences would be and who are the biggest food consumers. Since it is

printed in this document—and my question is directed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister, the public at large would like to know—will the Prime Minister prevent his Government from taxing food, bread and butter, or does the Prime Minister intend to allow this tax to be levied? Yes or no?

**Hon. Robert de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board):** In the White Paper there is no proposition about a tax on food. The decision has not been made—

**Mr. Malépart:** The decision has not been made!

**Mr. de Cotret:** The reference is to the base. No decision has been made. The discussion has to do with the tax base and the tax rate. There is no mention of a tax—

**Mr. Malépart:** Like in the case of the elderly. Pensions will not be de-indexed!

**An Hon. Member:** Small dictator!

**Mr. de Cotret:** Again I will repeat what the Minister of Finance said: There is no tax on food in the white Paper, nor will there be a tax increase for small wage earners.

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● (1200)

[*English*]

## PORNOGRAPHY

## EFFECT OF SUPREME COURT DECISION ON BILL C-54

**Mr. Geoff Scott (Hamilton—Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice will know that the Supreme Court of Canada rendered its decision yesterday in the case of Video World Ltd. This case involved the obscenity section of the Criminal Code. The Minister will also know the country's concern over the spread of pornography and the degradation of women. Can the Minister advise the House of the effect of the Supreme Court case on Bill C-54, the pornography amendments?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed the decision of the Manitoba Court of Appeal which determined that explicit depictions of vaginal, oral or anal intercourse are contrary to the current obscenity laws. The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada was unanimous, as was the decision of the Manitoba Court of Appeal, and I think it establishes that the Government's Bill is in tune with the current law of the country with respect to the explicit depiction of these activities.

**Mr. Speaker:** The next will be the last question. The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands.