

*Family Allowances*

devices. But notwithstanding that, on the clear evidence that serious crime might not have been detected but for the very rapid use by law enforcement officers of such devices, it was felt desirable to keep in their hands, under the responsibility of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General, use of those devices to detect serious crime so as to ensure the safety of all citizens in Canada.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, that statement is, of course, a transparent deception. My impression is that there is no part of Canada where judges would not be available. My suggestion to the minister is that, if this particular provision remains, every Canadian will be subject to snooping for a period of 36 hours. That is a dangerous challenge to Canadian liberty.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will, of course, allow the minister to reply, but I would suggest to hon. members that at this point we are debating an order of the day that is not before the House at the present time.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I have been able to obtain and to place before members of the public, and bring to the attention of the public, police information that on some occasions such serious offences as shipment of a very large quantity of heroin was brought to the attention of law enforcement officers at 2 a.m. on a Sunday, that within 30 minutes a meeting would take place in a city, and that very prompt action was required on the part of the law enforcement officers. It was surprising that they were able to obtain the information without having to go to a judge. In the interest of apprehending such criminals, who themselves use these devices, I think we are justified in giving this power to police officers as well.

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**ENERGY****OIL—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE SECURITY OF SUPPLY TO EASTERN CANADA**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. With regard to supplies of oil from the Middle East, in the event of a cut-off of supplies, which has been a matter of concern for some time according to the minister, I ask whether the minister has done anything specific to increase security of supply to oil consumers in eastern Canada in the event there is a cut-off, other than the projected meeting he will have with the industry? Has he done anything at all to increase the supply for eastern consumers such as, for example, increasing storage supplies?

● (1520)

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out in specific response some time ago to this question, the proposal for storage was found not to be practicable. At a time when it is difficult to secure regular supplies of oil because of the tightness of the international situation, it is obviously difficult to obtain additional supplies. I remind the hon. member that extensive discussions were carried on with the United States to obtain a security agreement to protect

Canada. That was not possible. Extensive discussions were carried on in the OECD but for reasons over which Canada had no control the OECD discussions broke down. I have taken direct steps by talking to our principal supplier, Venezuela, to attempt to secure protection of the supplies now coming to Canada. In addition, we will have a meeting—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I appreciate the position of the minister: the question asked was in very general terms and it was difficult to reply briefly. I bring to the attention of hon. members the fact that we have reached the end of the question period. I had hoped to be able to recognize a number of members. Perhaps before calling orders of the day the Leader of the Opposition might be permitted to ask a supplementary, and that the minister would reply.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I want a simple, direct answer. Has the minister done anything?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I should advise the House that in accordance with the special order which was passed, found in Votes and Proceedings for Friday, July 27, tomorrow we will be dealing with the report stage of Bill C-2, to amend the Criminal Code. Under the terms of that special order, the sitting of the House will begin at 11 a.m., although routine proceedings will take place as usual at two o'clock. While I am on my feet, may I say that if the family allowance bill is passed we will spend the rest of the afternoon on the CNR financing bill.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[Translation]

**FAMILY ALLOWANCES ACT, 1973****MEASURES TO PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF FAMILY AND SPECIAL ALLOWANCES**

The House resumed, from Tuesday, October 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that Bill C-211, to provide for the payment of family allowances in respect of children to supplement the income of Canadian families and for the payment of special allowances to provide for the care and maintenance of other children, and to amend the Income Tax Act in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

**Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski):** Mr. Speaker, I was saying yesterday that it is really discouraging to realize that, from 1950 to 1972, that is to say over a 22 year period only, the birthrate for Quebec has fallen from 30.3 per cent to 15.2 per cent per 1,000 habitants.