

## Oral Questions

[English]

## TRADE

REASON CANADA NOT NEGOTIATING WITH CUBA TO  
PURCHASE SUGAR

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** My supplementary is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and I hope I don't get any sweet talk. The consumer price index indicates that sugar prices have more than tripled over the last year and I note that Cuban sugar is being sold to us at \$4.57 per cwt. while Australian and South African sugar are considerably more expensive at \$6.47 and \$6.02 per cwt. respectively. Would the minister explain why Canada is not negotiating with Cuba for more substantial imports of raw sugar?

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** The primary reason is, of course, that the sugar trade is carried on by the private sector. In this connection I think the hon. member might be interested to know that imports of sugar from Cuba have increased in recent years. In 1974 it is estimated Cuba will supply between nine and ten per cent of Canadian requirements.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Can this House and the people of Canada expect that the government will step in to make sure that the public is able to buy sugar and its derivatives at reasonable prices rather than being ripped off by the sugar cartels?

**Mr. Gillespie:** I have already informed the hon. member that companies in business in the private sector have increased their imports from Cuba. These amounted to 47,000 tons in 1973 and I understand that imports in 1974 should be in the order of 97,000 tons.

**Mr. Ellis:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am not at all sure that this is a valid point of order but when the hon. member for Nickel Belt was asking his question he talked about sugar being sold at \$4.00 a cwt. and \$6.00 a cwt. and the minister read his answer back, though everyone knows the price of sugar is over \$60 per cwt., not \$6.00.

**An hon. Member:** The minister does not know that.

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## PARLIAMENT HILL

PROPOSED RESTRICTION OF DEMONSTRATIONS TO CERTAIN  
AREAS

**Mr. Joe Flynn (Kitchener):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It arises from the increasing number of demonstrations on Parliament Hill, the anxiety these demonstrations cause and the impediments created by them. Would it be possible to restrict these demonstrations to an area of the Hill where they would not interfere with normal business and would not cause consternation—

**An hon. Member:** It is their parliament, too!

**Mr. Flynn:** —to many Canadians and visitors from abroad who have a perfect right, also, to be on the Hill.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** I will look into that question, Mr. Speaker, but it is my understanding that matters relating to Parliament Hill and its use for demonstrations or otherwise fall under Your Honour's jurisdiction.

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## FINANCE

SUGGESTED PUBLICATION OF INTERIM REVIEW BY  
DEPARTMENT IN VIEW OF EXPECTED SURPLUS RATHER THAN  
DEFICIT

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** In view of the fact that the Annual Review of the Department of Finance is released in early spring and would now be many months out of date, does the minister intend to publish an interim review before November 18 so that we can put his budget proposals in proper perspective?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** The hon. gentleman will recall that in the last three years we have been publishing an Annual Review at that time regardless of the particular date on which the budget is presented. I hope to bring the hon. gentleman up to date as best I can during the budget presentation itself.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** I ask that question, Mr. Speaker, because in the budget of May 6 the minister was calling for a budgetary deficit of some \$450 million during the fiscal year. The other day, however, he indicated that a budgetary surplus of some \$598 million was now expected. I should like to know whether this spread, amounting to more than \$1 million, is the result of any change in fiscal policy or whether it is a measure of the standard of government forecasting?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** That is a matter with which I intend to deal in some detail on budget night.

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[Translation]

## COMBINES

REQUEST FOR PROHIBITION OF USE OF LOSS LEADERS—  
MINISTER'S POSITION

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In view of the fact that last year the NATCD began campaigning to make the government aware that this country's small businesses are disappearing because of the tremendous growth of concerns which resort to more or less fair methods to accelerate their growth, I would like to ask the hon. minister, in view of Bill C-2, whether he would be ready to favour the addition of a clause recommending that the sale of loss leaders become, through that bill, an offence under the act?