

[English]

### THE PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, Christmas is a time for miracles. In keeping with that tradition one of the Members of the House raised the matter of the famous "Last Supper" in Toronto tonight. It seems to me that they have got the wrong "Last Supper". In fact the "Last Supper" is the "Last Supper" to which every condemned man is entitled. Certainly all the necessary people will be there to play their parts, Mr. Speaker.

Vying for the role of executioner will be Fleming and Perrault. Consoling the condemned man as the guillotine is readied will be Senator Keith Davey. Eager for the role of the disinterested Madam Lafarge, with sharpened knitting needles at the ready, is Iona Campagnolo. Once the blade has dropped, the over-anxious coroner, played by John Turner, of course, will rush with ill-concealed haste to confirm that the dirty deed has been done finally. There will be no stay of execution. There will be no eleventh hour phone call from the Nobel committee. There will be no reprieve from the Canadian electorate. If this is truly to be the "Last Supper" for the Prime Minister, I think I can join with other Members of the House in saying that we hope that he will eat a hearty and last meal.

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### FOOD AND DRUGS

#### WINE—A PAEAN OF PRAISE

**Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines):** Mr. Speaker, at this particular time of the year when Yuletide parties are commonplace it is worth while knowing that one beverage, wine, is full of the necessary vitamins and minerals which a body requires. It has been found that wine contains the minerals potassium, calcium, sodium, magnesium, phosphorous, copper, iron, cobalt, manganese, sulphur, chromium and zinc. It contains as well, Mr. Speaker, vitamins A, B, C, and B complex. The acid in these wines, especially found in the dry wines of Niagara, is also beneficial because it aids the digestive system.

If every individual would replace sleeping pills with a glass or two of wine, as they do in European countries, we would be a happier, healthier people. Wineries from coast to coast should, as they extoll the virtues of their products, emphasize these facts. Wines are a food product that can become a part of everyday living and social life. A reclassification of wines as food products would substantially reduce the forms of taxation, make these excellent beverages available to a larger market at a more reasonable price, and provide a stimulus to our grape growers and wineries which are being suffocated by excessive taxation.

### Oral Questions

#### ENERGY

##### DEPARTMENT'S USE OF FUNDS FOR PETROLEUM INCENTIVES PROGRAM

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Mr. Speaker, on November 29 the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien) was asked to explain why his Department had transferred \$50 million from the Canadian Home Insulation Program to the Canadian Dry Hole Program. The Minister on that day, the day of the vote on the matter, answered that he did not know a thing about it but would inquire into the matter.

Mr. Speaker, for the Minister's information, the Auditor General has expressed severe concerns about the Canadian Dry Hole Program. The petroleum industry has expressed serious concerns about the Canadian Dry Hole Program. In the House the NDP has asked questions, both orally and on the Order Paper. We have asked for a reference to the committee to study the problem. We have asked for the committee to be convened so that the Minister could be questioned. The Minister's answers, by and large, are so weak and defensive that it is clear that he is spending more time on his leadership aspirations than on his responsibilities with the Department.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

##### FINANCIAL POSITION OF GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board, whom I see entering the House. In his report the Auditor General accuses the Government of Canada not only of wasting the taxpayer's money, but also of using "accounting policies that are inappropriate for a fair presentation of the assets and liabilities and revenues and expenditures of the Government of Canada". The Auditor General has in effect accused the Government of misrepresenting its true financial position by in excess of \$20 billion in the last fiscal year.

The Auditor General is a most honourable person who was given independence precisely because he was capable of rendering objective judgments. Given this objective analysis by the Auditor General, what specific steps is the Government planning to take to ensure that in future the taxpayers of Canada can know exactly how their dollars are going to be spent? What program is the Minister ready to announce today to ensure that the kinds of overwhelming boondoggles announced by the Auditor General no longer occur on the backs of the Canadian people?