

*Oral Questions*

amounts are all tallied in about July or August, the hon. member will see for sure, as he did last year, that our expenditures will be within the public commitment we made.

**Mr. Andre:** Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer the question I raised about the difference between his prediction and the actual fact of the supplementals. He also predicted that spending for the fiscal year just ending would show an increase of 7.7 per cent, though a glance at the figures will indicate that the real figure is 9.4 per cent or, actually, closer to 12 per cent or 13 per cent.

● (1432)

My question to the President of the Treasury Board is this: In order to clear up this question, would the hon. gentleman ask for an immediate reference to be made to the public accounts committee so that guidelines may be established to provide that in future, when spending estimates are presented, they will give a true and accurate picture and not the type of flimflam we have been getting in the past.

**An hon. Member:** Hooray!

**Mr. Andras:** I think the needle has stuck on that broken record somewhere.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** The broken record is on that side of the House.

**Mr. Andras:** The commitments and the figures which are given, and which are repeated today, will be met. I would be very glad to show the hon. member in the most simple form possible exactly what the record has been, using a little piece of paper and a pencil, before the public accounts committee, privately or in any other way which would make it clear to him what is already clear to so many other people.

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**TRADE****MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON BALANCING TOURISM BUDGET**

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. Before asking it, I want to remind him that in the last nine years we have experienced a deficit on the travel account ranging from \$202 million in 1971 to \$1,700 million last year. In the light of this situation, and remembering that we are not as gullible as the Liberal convention delegates, what did the minister mean when he said last Saturday that Canada should come "awfully close" to balancing the tourism budget this year? Did the minister, by that statement, mean that we were going to eliminate the balance of payments deficit on the tourism account? Are we going to be within \$1 billion of doing so, or \$1.5 billion? What did he mean by "awfully close"? What does he mean by that revelation?

[Mr. Andras.]

**Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** If one person stands beside another, he is awfully close, but when he is as far away as the hon. member is from me, he is a long way away—and he will continue to be a long way away unless he can interpret the figures a lot better than he has.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Obviously, the hon. gentleman thinks he is at an accountability session at the Liberal convention. Might I try another question? The minister has announced a \$1 million promotion deal to advertise in Canadian magazines to encourage Canadians to stay at home, specifically *Maclean's* magazine in which the minister was featured recently. In connection with this effort by the government to encourage Canadians to holiday at home, has the hon. gentleman received a pledge from the Prime Minister and from his other cabinet colleagues that they will spend their vacations at home, or do they intend to continue scuba diving in the Bahamas, skiing in Colorado, vacationing in Cuba—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****SUGGESTION CABINET MEMBERS HEAR REPRESENTATIONS OF MRS. SHCHARANSKY ON BEHALF OF HER HUSBAND**

**Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I have given the right hon. gentleman notice of its general nature. Earlier today, I had the opportunity to meet personally with the wife of Anatoly Shcharansky and to discuss directly with her and with some of her representatives the very serious situation of her husband. I understand that Mrs. Shcharansky has for some time now been seeking a direct personal meeting with the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the Prime Minister tell us whether the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or he himself, would be prepared to arrange a personal meeting immediately with Mrs. Shcharansky?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Just five minutes ago I received notice from the Leader of the Opposition that he would ask this question. I had time to communicate with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, who might have the answer.

**Mr. Maurice Dupras (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, the motion put forward by the hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona was given unanimous consent. We hope this will prove to be significant.

**Mr. Clark:** I appreciate that fact, and I think it speaks well of the House that the motion put forward by one of the members on the opposition side should have received the unanimous support of this chamber. I think this is particularly important because it indicates the commitment of hon. members to stand up and defend human rights. That is why I asked