

Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the fact that a program of tubal ligation is being carried out on native women who apparently do not understand the consequences or claim they have not been informed that they are being sterilized, can the minister say what steps are being taken to rectify this shocking situation?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** First of all, Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the hon. member's statement that this program was set up by the government.

I listened myself to yesterday's CBC program; the Deputy Minister of National Health had given instructions concerning these operations.

Mistakes may have been made, and I know that my colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, is studying the problem at the moment. But the government has no established policy concerning the sterilization of Indian women.

[English]

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Is the minister suggesting that the native women who were interviewed on the CBC and said the operation was done either against their will or without their knowing were in fact making false statements?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I said just now that there is always a possibility of mistakes. But the government's policy on this is quite clear, and these operations only take place when requested by the person concerned. The Department of National Health and Welfare requires in every case that there should be an interpreter present to facilitate conversation between the two doctors and the patient.

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• (1450)

[English]

#### FINANCE

##### LOWERING OF TARIFFS ON FOOD IMPORTS—POSSIBILITY OF SIMILAR ACTION RESPECTING OTHER SEGMENTS OF ECONOMY

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Because of the government's action in lowering the tariff on food imports and in setting up a special committee to study trends in food prices, and because of the concern expressed about the tremendous increase in food imports into Canada, is the government now considering controls or guidelines or direct action aimed at any other segment of the Canadian economy, or are the farmers of this nation and their families to bear the entire financial burden of the government's fight against high living costs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate and will agree, I am sure, that the second part

#### Oral Questions

of his question is argumentative and in this way the question is not in order.

**Mr. Danforth:** Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase the question?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member should not be allowed to ask a supplementary to a question that is out of order, but I will be pleased to allow the hon. member to rephrase the question.

**Mr. Danforth:** Mr. Speaker, that was my point. Thank you. May I ask the minister if the government contemplates imposing any controls or guidelines on any other segment of the Canadian economy comparable with those now imposed on the primary producers of this nation?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that the hon. gentleman has rephrased his question I want to say to the House that I do not accept his preamble and that the budgetary measures to which he refers also include a good many benefits to the farmers of this country, including transfers on death of the family farm and a good many items affecting farmers as consumers.

**Mr. Baldwin:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Peace River on a supplementary and then recognize the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

#### JURISDICTION RESPECTING IMPOSITION OF PRICE CONTROLS—STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Would he at the earliest opportunity make a statement on motions indicating if the Minister of Agriculture was enunciating government policy when he said in the House on Friday that only provincial governments have the right to deal with questions of controls? Would he at the same time indicate what are the circumstances of emergency under which this government would see fit to act?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that is a question of constitutional law.

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

**Mr. Hees:** This is a new low for non-answers, Pierre.

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#### FOOD PRICES

##### REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION BY CABINET—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

**Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question to direct to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister assure the House that he will assign to his cabinet top priority for the consideration of