

*Oral Questions*

Republic of China and thus obtaining the release of a CIA agent from a Chinese prison on humanitarian and compassionate grounds because of his mother's health, will the Prime Minister agree to contact his counterpart, Fidel Castro of Cuba, for the purpose of obtaining the release of Canadian citizen Ronald Patrick Lippert of Kitchener, who has now served ten years in a Cuban jail as a confessed CIA employee on the same basis of—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Cossitt:** —humanitarian and compassionate grounds because of the health of Mr. Lippert's mother?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have the impression the hon. member has asked this question probably in the same terms a few days ago, but the question having been asked and having taken some time, perhaps the Prime Minister might reply if he wishes to do so.

[Translation]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, like the right hon. member for Prince Albert said: "I shall answer this question later."

[English]

**Mr. Cossitt:** In view of the published reports over the weekend, which I presume were published in Cuba as well, that the Prime Minister intends to resign in favour of the Minister of Finance, would he be prepared to confirm—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Dauphin.

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**GRAIN**

**PROPOSED PLEBISCITE ON METHOD OF MARKETING  
RYE, FLAX AND RAPESEED—INQUIRY AS TO  
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PRODUCERS**

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the projected plebiscite in respect of the method of marketing rye, flax and rapeseed, will the minister be placing clearly before the growers the proposed method by which these oilseeds will be marketed if the Canadian Wheat Board is designated to be the marketing agency?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we are having some discussions about the exact form of the plebiscite and form of the information that should be placed before the producers at the present time. We hope to formulate the question and the information in a way acceptable to virtually everyone.

[Mr. Cossitt.]

**INCOME TAX**

**ALLEGED GOVERNMENT SPONSORED BROADCAST  
EXPLAINING FORMS—NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. I should like to ask him whether the government intends to have further broadcasts on the CBC to explain the unexplainable in connection with the income tax form?

**Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue):** First, Mr. Speaker, may I thank the right hon. gentleman for the honour of responding to his question on this happy day for him and for all of us. I think the premise of his question is mistaken in that the government has not sponsored any such broadcast. Perhaps he is referring to the CBC "Tax Test" last Friday evening. This is not the first year there has been such a national tax test, and I presume it will not be the last. It was a CBC program not paid for in any way by the Department of National Revenue. I might tell the right hon. gentleman that so far the tax returns are coming in very well and the error rate is about 40 per cent below that of last year.

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

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, there are two kinds of falsehoods, ordinary falsehoods and statistics. The hon. gentleman has established a statistic without telling us how many have sent in their returns. Has he not a multitude of letters of complaint concerning the maelstrom of difficulties in which Canadian taxpayers find themselves by reason of the stupidity of the government in respect of its questions?

**Mr. Stanbury:** Mr. Speaker, I must say there were a number of complaints, particularly before the forms were distributed, stimulated partly by fear tactics on the part of the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame!

**Mr. Stanbury:** However, in recent weeks and days the correspondence has been quite the contrary, and I am glad to say—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Stanbury:** —that the return rate is about the same as the year before.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I ask the co-operation of hon. members to limit the number of supplementaries between now and the end of the question period. Order, please. I believe the Chair cannot allow supplementaries. There are three minutes left before the end of the question period. The hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond rises on a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to inform the minister in just what bad shape he is. He sent me a request for assistance in respect of his tax form.