

**Mr. Dinsdale:** While agreeing with the Postmaster General on the necessity of investigating criminal activities, I should like to ask whether he can confirm or deny the statement of the chief inspector in the U.S. postal service, Mr. William J. Cotter, that authorization has been given by Canadian officials to interfere with mail covers or the interception of mail to record postmarks, destination, sender's address and any other information on the outside of envelopes which is conveyed to individuals in the United States?

**Mr. Mackasey:** Mr. Speaker, I have no comment since I have not seen the article. I presume it would have come second hand through some newspaper or some printed version of what the gentleman may or may not have said. Not having seen the article, I cannot comment on its contents.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Saint-Denis. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

**An hon. Member:** Sit down.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I thank you . . .

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Prud'homme:** Silence, for goodness' sake! That question was a supplementary to the President of the Privy Council.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Just a moment. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

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### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSION IN VIEW OF TIME LAG OF QUARTERLY ESCALATION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that the increase in the actual cost of food, as announced today, bears very heavily on old age pensioners, and in view of the fact that the quarterly escalation of old age pensions does not cover the actual cost of living of senior citizens and is always behind by several months, will the minister take whatever steps are necessary to provide a substantial increase in the old age pension?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, pensions are now being indexed quarterly according to the cost of living. There was a pension increase last July 1, and two additional upward adjustments are forecast for October 1, 1975 and January 1, 1976. These will also take into account the increase in the cost of living. For the time being, no other legislation is under consideration.

### Oral Questions

[English]

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I ask the floor for a supplementary. I hope you will not rebuke me for repeating the question but the minister pays no attention to the fact that the quarterly escalation does not cover the actual cost of living for senior citizens and is always three, six, or eight months behind. What is he going to do about it?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, once again, this is exactly the same question. The increase being provided is not six or eight months but only three months behind the cost of living increase. As I have said, no other legislation is being considered.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### PROPOSAL THAT UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON CRIMINOLOGY BE HELD IN QUEBEC CITY

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Acting Prime Minister.

Since the Ontario government refuses to keep their word and extend their help for holding this important United Nations conference, and I repeat a United Nations and not a PLO conference, would the Acting Prime Minister confirm or state whether he will consider proposing that this important conference be held in another city, possibly the quiet, historical French city of Quebec?

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[English]

### ENERGY

#### ALLEGED DEFECT IN PIPELINE UNDER AGASSIZ BRIDGE—REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Alex Patterson (Fraser Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister been advised of the extreme concern being expressed over an allegedly defective pipeline under the Agassiz bridge in British Columbia and if so, has an investigation been conducted to ascertain the truth in the allegations?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, there was an investigation some time back I believe. On this allegation I would have to inquire from the National Energy Board to confirm whether or not there has been a repetition of the incident.

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### PROPOSAL TO SHORTEN TIME IN WHICH CASES CONSIDERED BY PENSIONS TRIBUNAL

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Veterans Affairs I should like to ask the deputy Prime Minister if the government has