

Oral Questions

FINANCE

COST TO TAXPAYERS OF MAINTAINING PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICIAL RESIDENCES IN LIGHT OF RENOVATIONS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is related to the question which was asked earlier by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka and it relates to improving the standard of living of Canadians. I should like to direct it to the Minister of Finance. In light of the fact that almost \$300,000 of the taxpayers' money has been spent since 1968, at the rate of \$50,000 a year, on renovating and, presumably, modernizing the Prime Minister's official residence, why is it still costing the taxpayer more than \$10,000 a year to maintain that residence, not counting the one at Harrington Lake?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Can the minister indicate whether the 26 per cent increase in government expenditures forecast in the budget was to have been reflected in government expenditures on renovating and maintaining the residence at 24 Sussex Drive, in the estimates that they might have been planning?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. gentleman adopts that tack in the election campaign.

[Translation]

CEILING ON INTEREST RATES ON STUDENT LOANS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

Since chartered banks are reluctant to make loans to students because of the rate ceiling of 7¼ p. 100 under the current legislation applying in their case instead of the generally recognized rate of 13½ p. 100 in business in general is the minister considering taking the necessary steps to remedy that situation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I will give that matter very serious consideration, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

FISHERIES

ADHERENCE BY RUSSIA AND JAPAN TO WHALING QUOTAS—
REPRESENTATIONS BY CANADA

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 3, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he could indicate if the 14-nation International Whaling Commission's ruling that quotas must be cut by 25 per cent has been adhered to by Russia and Japan, or whether these two nations are still indiscriminately overfishing endangered species such as Atlantic sperm whales and mink whales. Can he tell the House if these two nations have been overfishing, and what objections have been raised by Canada with the two countries concerned regarding this practice? He stated he would give me an answer on Monday. Today is Wednesday. Is the minister now in a position to reply to that question?

[Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan).]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the government of Canada has requested that the Soviet Union and Japan reconsider their refusals to accept the International Whaling Commission's quotas, pointing out the inconsistency of these refusals with the general objectives pursued by Canada and the majority of the members of the International Whaling Commission.

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SPORTS

SUGGESTED INCONSISTENCY IN GOVERNMENT POSITION
RESPECTING FOOTBALL LEGISLATION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare this question. In light of his statement in committee yesterday and his reply today, would he undertake to let us know if he changes his mind again on the football bill—although two trips to Damascus are rather rare!

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to refer the hon. member to the record of the committee yesterday, where I said I did not believe that the proposal of the opposition was workable. I still do not believe it today. It is not workable, and it will remain unworkable; so far as I am concerned, the bill will remain as it is.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

POSSIBILITY OF EARLY DISSOLUTION—CERTAIN WORDS OF
PRIME MINISTER DURING LAST ELECTION—PRESENT
POSITION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact there has been some speculation in the papers that there might be an election in the next little while, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if those memorable words of his uttered on October 30 at the time of the last election will be repeated by him at seven minutes after six tonight, or whenever the vote is taken, to support the philosophical bent for which he has become so well known to Canadians as expressed in his words that the universe is unfolding as it should?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that if the universe were unfolding as it should members of the opposition would be asking more questions than they are about the expenses at Stornoway as opposed to those at 24 Sussex Drive.

An hon. Member: Our leader is preparing it for you, Pierre.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!