

*Oral Questions*REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND
SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT CLASSIFIED COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister consider making a statement to the House as soon as possible to assure the House that the confidentiality and secrecy of Canadian government classified communications to our embassies abroad, to the leaders of other states, and between Canadian government departments are adequately protected from various communication detection devices that might be employed by other nations in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Obviously we attempt to ensure the security of our communication systems as best we can. We have various devices and codes in order to ensure that. As to whether other countries are succeeding in breaking these codes, the answer is that we hope not, but I cannot make a statement of fact as to what may be done by other countries and what knowledge they may be gathering.

ALLEGATIONS ON CBC PROGRAM CONCERNING ACTIVITIES
OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL AND OTHER CANADIANS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs arising out of his statement that he and his colleagues have in their possession a document answering in some detail the very serious allegations contained in the CBC television program last night. Would the minister be prepared to ask the House either to revert to motions at this time or undertake tomorrow on motions to make that information available to the House in view of the fact the Canadian people must be understandably disturbed by some of the allegations which were made last night and have not been satisfactorily answered today?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no such document. What I said was that my colleagues and I have been informed of the contents of the program which none of us had seen because we were engaged in discussion of public business in cabinet committee—

Some hon. Members: Public?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Public matters.

Mr. Sharp: It is on the basis of the study that we have given that we have been answering questions today, and we would be happy to answer any other questions that may be put to us.

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GRAIN

RESULTS OF PLEBISCITE ON RAPESEED MARKETING—
PROVISION FOR GRAIN EXCHANGE SUPERVISOR AND
VOLUNTARY POOLING

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Since approximately 1,500 votes

[Mr. Trudeau.]

remain to be counted in the just concluded rapeseed plebiscite in western Canada, would the minister at this time either confirm or deny that the results of that vote indicate that approximately 45 per cent to 50 per cent of the people who have voted for retaining the present marketing system, with some 35 per cent to 40 per cent having voted in favour of the Canadian Wheat Board marketing system, and with a small undecided vote cast up to this point?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is correct in saying that a fairly small number of votes remain to be counted. The votes counted so far by the supervisor of the poll, Mr. George Turner, in the presence of scrutineers for the interested parties, indicate in fact that the majority are in favour of the present system of marketing rapeseed by a margin that is relatively small but yet large enough to make it appear that the remaining votes cannot affect that result, even in terms of a majority. The hon. member is also right in saying that a very small percentage of the ballots, under 2 per cent of the votes, were marked undecided.

● (1440)

Mr. Murta: Since it now appears that rapeseed will continue to be marketed under the present system, is the minister going to keep his pledge to the farmers, made during the rapeseed plebiscite, that as soon as possible a supervisor for the grain exchange will be appointed and that there will be voluntary pooling as far as rapeseed marketing is concerned?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, both of those items require legislative changes and I will be seeking to bring those before the House as soon as possible.

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TAXATION

REQUEST THAT SALES TAX ON BUILDING MATERIALS BE
ELIMINATED AND MORTGAGE INTEREST BE ALLOWED AS
DEDUCTION FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact housing is now 31 per cent of the consumer price index, and in view of the fact that the government is making quite a profit from the sales tax on building materials, can the minister tell the House whether he will recommend to his cabinet colleagues that the government immediately eliminate the sales tax on building materials to help the old people and the old age pensioners that the Prime Minister was talking about either to buy or rent housing at a reasonable rate?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will take that as a representation to be considered before the budget is presented.

Mr. Reynolds: In view of the fact the government has been blaming Canada's inflation on world pressures, will the minister adopt a policy in Canada in his new budget that will allow Canadians to deduct mortgage interest from their taxes in order to help people in the lower income brackets to get into housing?