

*Oral Questions*

question which, no doubt, he was busily preparing. The minister just went through answering the concern of the hon. member as it concerns inflation in the year to come by indicating that this government had indexed old age pensions and other pensions so that they follow the rate of inflation as it goes up and compensate people on welfare for the higher rate of inflation by providing a higher rate of pension.

So far as the other part of the question regarding rollbacks is concerned, I have urged the hon. member before to explain how the federal government under the present constitution could roll back prices which are essentially under provincial jurisdiction.

**Mr. Broadbent:** As I politely explained to the Prime Minister before, he could use the same constitutional authority he used to bring in wage and price controls.

**An hon. Member:** That is right; he never listens.

**Mr. Broadbent:** What was good to control wages is obviously not adequate for the Prime Minister to control prices. We understand that well on this side of the House.

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

**Mr. Broadbent:** I should like to ask him another question, because he has rejected two approaches. In order to maintain the purchasing power of low-income Canadians in particular, will the Prime Minister at least consider announcing before Christmas an income tax reduction for middle and low-income Canadians so that they can continue to eat the essential foods?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I am sorry to say this, because I know that on another constitutional matter I have the support of the hon. member—

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** —but I must point out to him that his knowledge of the constitution apparently does not extend to the areas which permitted us to apply wage and price controls.

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

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

**An hon. Member:** And these are your friends?

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I wish the member in the second row would learn to control his sphincter; it would be easier then to get an argument across in this House.

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

**An hon. Member:** Heaven hath no fury like an NDP member scorned!

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, the leader of the NDP will remember that when we brought in wage and price controls, it was after two years in succession that the provincial premiers had urged the federal government to take some firm and drastic action to control inflation, and even then, when we appealed—

**An hon. Member:** You took no notice of the provincial premiers in the constitutional talks.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** What I said about the member in the second row applies also to members in the back row of the Tory party.

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

**An hon. Member:** Come on, answer the question.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## POLAND—INQUIRY REGARDING CONTEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S NOTE TO CHAIRMAN BREZHNEV

**Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta):** Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister who, two weeks ago, met with Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Schmidt. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether, in his note to Chairman Brezhnev last week, he included a briefing regarding the discussions he had held with Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Schmidt.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I would ask the hon. member to understand that correspondence between heads of state and heads of government sometimes is privileged, and I consider this particular correspondence as privileged.

**Mr. Friesen:** Madam Speaker, I am simply asking the Prime Minister about what is apparently established protocol, and I should like to refer to his news conference of November 7 at which he spoke of the friendship protocol which he signed with the Soviet Union in 1971. At that time the Prime Minister said:

We would do the same if I were to visit the United States, or something, or see a leader of some other country, we would have the Russian ambassador informed of the discussions.

In view of the fact that the Soviet Union has already shown its true colours in Afghanistan and is apparently preparing for a repeat performance in Poland, I wonder if the Prime Minister would show the firm resolve of the Canadian people to the Soviet Union by renouncing the friendship protocol which he signed in 1971 and cutting off that source of briefing which apparently Chairman Brezhnev has been getting.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I think the sentiment of the Canadian people with regard to the situation in Poland was