

*Oral Questions*

fall on an opponent which seems to be throwing him all around the ring?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I am not as good a wrestler as the hon. member who showed the whole country how to do it, during the election period I believe, when he wrestled one of his own supporters clean through the door.

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

**Mr. Hees:** It is obvious that the rabble is roused. Is the Prime Minister not aware of the fact that I juggle with little fellows like him, keeping three in the air and one on the ground every day.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I thought that the hon. member's supplementary would have to do with the investigation of this latest evidence of violence.

INFLATION—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING  
CONSENSUS OF VARIOUS GROUPS

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** My question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of what the Minister of Finance has been telling us, does the government intend to ask for a consensus without having any idea of its own regarding what guidelines or restraints are needed at this time? How can one obtain a consensus if the other fellow does not know what you have in mind?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** The first step is to find out what the other fellow thinks is reasonable.

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● (1520)

THE MINISTRY

REASON FOR ADDITIONAL LIMOUSINE FOR PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question regarding his limousines. I should like to state, too, that I have never asked the Prime Minister this type of question because I think he deserves proper treatment by the people of this country and he should have one limousine. I should like to ask him, however, if he would advise the RCMP or the people who provide his cars to sell one of them and thus show the people of Canada that he can live within very normal means as well?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that when the RCMP advised me that they were getting a second limousine I was most surprised because I am known as one who is restrained in spending and I knew this would be a position which would have the support of the opposition. I asked them to consider the matter very seriously which they did. They gave a series of reasons why they felt they needed two. Personally, I am only using one—

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Only one at a time.

[Mr. Hees.]

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, only one at a time. I probably could use two at a time but that would be an acrobatic feat. I will convey the renewed representations of the hon. member to the RCMP and see if they wish to do something. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that when the RCMP tell me something I listen.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Which one do you wrestle in?

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED USE OF CASH BALANCE TO RETIRE DEBT—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of current inflation of 12 per cent and with government cash balances now at approximately \$5 billion, about \$500 for every taxpayer in the country, would the minister indicate if he plans to use at least some or hopefully most of these funds to retire federal debt which is now 55 per cent higher than before the present government took power, up a whopping \$4.2 billion in the past year alone, and if the minister does not plan to retire debt would he indicate where the \$5 billion in cash balances fits into his anti-inflationary program?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I was discussing the problem of debt management with the provinces over the last two days, giving them our budgetary projections and our cash requirements and they were giving me theirs on a confidential basis as they could foresee them. I said to them, as I said to the Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates in some detail—I am sorry the hon. member was not there at the time because I know how concerned he is about government spending—that we anticipated using these cash balances not only to finance the remainder of the current fiscal year 1974-75 where taking foreign exchange into account we need only \$500 million, and that has been financed, but the next year stimulus as the hon. member knows involving a cash requirement of \$3 million. We already have sufficient cash on hand so that we can take the pressure off the bond and capital markets in this country, leaving room for the provinces and the private sector which will have a moderating effect on the interest structure and in that way will have a deflationary effect.

POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN DEBT CEILING—GOVERNMENT  
POSITION

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** A supplementary question. In view of the minister's answer and his inclusion last evening of power in Bill C-42 to raise government loan limits by \$2½ billion—apparently without the knowledge of the government's own House leader—would the minister indicate if he anticipates that this will be a temporary ceiling increase and that in fact he will be able to return to a debt level within the ceiling approved within the last year either on the treasury bill side or otherwise so that we will not have a permanently increased ceiling limit such as was approved last night?