

Oral Questions

with a four-month deadline, a decision which denies meaningful public input and which is in fact a perversion of the normal democratic process of this Parliament?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, as the House knows, I had hoped there would be a joint committee established to deal with the Bill. I understand that is still possible, although I have been told that Members opposite have indicated they are not willing to sit and listen to representations about the Bill this summer. I understand the Senate may establish a reference to do so. I hope they do, because that will make it possible for all those with objections to and concerns about the Bill to be heard, and will give the public an opportunity for the first time to make up its mind about the Bill.

[Translation]

POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES OF PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS
PARTISANS AND MILITANTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson: Madam Speaker, my supplementary is also directed to the Solicitor General. According to the disastrous provisions of this Bill which, in fact, create a police state, any groups or individuals supporting separatism in Quebec in an unconstitutional manner, as, for example, through a unilateral declaration of independence after a referendum, could be investigated by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, which would be allowed to open mail, listen to telephone communications and consult confidential medical records. Since the Parti Québécois itself could very well support a declaration of this kind, how could the Minister justify a Bill that would condone this extreme violation of the civil liberties of thousands of supporters and militants of the Parti Québécois?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, perhaps I could suggest to the Parti Québécois to submit a brief to the Senate committee, if there is one, in order to discuss its reactions to the Bill.

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[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION
EXTENT OF BORROWING AUTHORITY

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who will know that farm income has gone down by 14 per cent this year, that the Farm Credit Corporation ran out of funds within two months of their being allocated, and that it requested permission to borrow an additional \$500 million from the private money market. This was refused, and it has only been allowed to borrow \$250 million. I ask the Minister why it has not been allowed to borrow the money required to provide adequate farm financing and refinancing?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I was surprised to hear my colleague mention only \$250 million. From what I have heard, a quarter of a million dollars is still a rather substantial sum, when we realize that this is in addition to amounts already borrowed by the organization in question, and that the latter is receiving money each year from loan repayments, which it can then lend again. I would think that in the circumstances, \$250 million should be enough to meet requirements in the current year.

[English]

Mr. Gurbin: Madam Speaker, I am surprised the Minister feels an additional \$250 million would be adequate or that it means so much, when he found \$200 million, just like that, when he needed it for his photo opportunity, and when he gave \$1.4 billion to Canadair without thinking about it.

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THE ECONOMY

IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT RESTRAINT PROGRAM—COMPARISON
WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister relates to the six and five program. The Minister has repeatedly said that the economy of this country is dependent on the United States and international economies. Why is the Minister so certain that his six and five program has been responsible for economic recovery in Canada when the U.S., without a six and five program, is doing better in its economic recovery, with a better rate of inflation, less unemployment, and where in the long run they look like they have a happier future?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): How come there are so many Americans who would like to move to Canada?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: That is true.

Mr. McDermid: Name one!

Mr. Lalonde: My hon. friend should remind himself that the figures he has mentioned, all those hundreds of millions of dollars, have been used to create jobs in this country. The recovery program, for instance, is going to be used to build infrastructure across the country. Canadians are going to be employed and will benefit from these developments taking place across the country.

As far as the six and five program is concerned, the Government has never said this was the be all and end all of economic policy. We said it was an important instrument in ensuring that there would be a decline in inflation in this country. It has indeed been that. It has indicated a clear leadership by the Government of Canada, which has been followed by the provincial and municipal Governments and the private sector.