

*Oral Questions*

**Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I do not know how the presentation of credentials is scheduled in France, Mr. Speaker, but I shall refer the supplementary question to the minister for his own consideration.

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[English]

**FINANCE****INQUIRY AS TO RESTRAINTS ON MAIN AND SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES**

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance or, in the alternative, to the President of the Treasury Board. In light of the Prime Minister's statements and those contained in the white paper as to government restraint on expenditures, will either of the two ministers inform the House whether there were any restrictions or cutbacks from the estimates as published last February or were there any actual restrictions on the estimates contained in the supplementary estimates tabled last week so that restraint becomes a word for this year and not merely some sort of slogan for next year?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, at the presentation of the June budget, we established a program to cut expenditures by \$967 million in fiscal year 1975-76. Such cuts were made where projects had been presented after July. We did not announce other measures on October 13. We are now preparing the estimates for next year and we hope to apply this policy further and perhaps make it more efficient for next year's estimates.

[English]

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Can the President of the Treasury Board assure the House that any restraint or published figures of restraint with regard to the 1976-77 estimates will not be merely cutbacks on inflated figures that are brought in so that beautiful, healthy cuts can appear to have been made?

[Translation]

**Mr. Chrétien:** Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should know that it is impossible to indicate at this time what cuts we are going to make. That will be made clear when the estimates are tabled in the House in early February next year.

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[English]

**INDUSTRY****SUGGESTED PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As this country does 70 per cent of its export and import business with the United States, and as during the third quarter of this year the United States

[Mr. Beaudoin.]

increased its productivity by no less than 9½ per cent while we continued our steady decline, is the minister planning to introduce in the near future productivity incentives to be paid in direct proportion to increases in productivity so that we do not continue to lose a steadily increasing proportion of the Canadian and export market to better priced American goods?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** It is an interesting proposition. I don't think I can give a short answer to it; I am not sure whether the hon. member is talking about worker productivity or general productivity within a company. If he is speaking of the latter, this has been a subject I have been discussing with industry as recently as half an hour ago when I met with the Canadian Chemical Association. I agree with the fundamental premise of the question, namely, that productivity has to be improved, and we shall certainly use every means we can to do this.

**Mr. Hees:** I can assure the minister that I am talking about industrial productivity as he assumed. I hope he will make better progress than his predecessors did, because they have been telling me the same sort of thing year after year.

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**CRIMINAL CODE****PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO DEAL WITH HATE MESSAGES BY TELEPHONE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It has to do with a despicable practice, a practice which, I believe, Canadians do not want, do not believe in, and, I might add, cannot afford. In the light of the fact that the Attorney General for Ontario wants to crack down on hate messages by having amendments made to the Criminal Code, can the minister assure the House that he is receptive to this very necessary move and that he will introduce very shortly amendments to the Criminal Code in order to prevent this hateful discriminatory practice to which I have referred?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** The Attorney General of Ontario raised this matter with me at a recent meeting of attorneys general in Halifax and I was sympathetic to the representations he made. It is still not clear to me why charges could not be laid under section 231(2) of the Criminal Code as it now reads, but this is a matter which my officials and the officials of the Crown office in Ontario are presently examining. With regard to any prospective amendments, I am awaiting written representations and explanations from the Attorney General of Ontario and I intend to discuss them at a federal-provincial meeting we are holding in Ottawa on December 11 and 12.

**Mr. Alexander:** I want to thank the minister for that answer. I am sure he is aware that this is an extremely important subject and I hope, with all due respect, that he will show some leadership in this connection; we cannot