

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER JUSTIFY BUDGET CUTS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Laurier—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer the question. He is acting like a Minister without a heart, without any compassion for the ill. Dr. David is a physician, not a Bay Street broker, and he spoke like a physician. Even before you brought down your Budget, there wasn't enough money in the health care system. Why did you reduce the rate by which these moneys are increased? Why didn't you give more money to the sick, to save human lives across Canada? Why destroy the health care system?

[English]

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will get nowhere with his cheap personal shots. Let's stick to the issue.

Let me stick clearly to the issue here and be quite up-front. The measures in this Budget are designed to help us maintain good social programs, programs that we, on all sides of the House, are very much committed to. The increase of our interest costs and funded debt has gone from 12 cents of every tax dollar to 25 cents, to 31 cents last year, and now has jumped to 35 cents this year. If we are going to ignore this debt problem then we are in a lot of trouble. That is why we are doing everything we can to avoid that problem. We are doing everything we can to maintain these social programs that are important to Canadians across the country.

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## THE BUDGET

## LEAK OF DOCUMENT—ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTION

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last Thursday, the Minister stood in the House and characterized the Budget leak, as reported at page 1005 of *Hansard*, as, "a wilful criminal act" in order to justify his actions of the night before. He called it a wilful criminal act. In view of the position of the Minister of Justice, is the Minister of Finance now prepared to withdraw that assertion?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House once again that there is an ongoing criminal investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and any discussion either in the House or outside the House while that investigation is going on would be inappropriate.

[Translation]

## REQUEST THAT MINISTER WITHDRAW WORDS

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Finance and I hope to get an answer from the Minister.

Last week, the Minister of Finance said in the House that the Budget leak was caused by a criminal act. I would like to know whether the Minister of Finance is now prepared to rise in the House to withdraw what he said.

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, it is the same question, in French. As my colleague said, the RCMP is investigating all the circumstances around this matter, and I do not think it would be appropriate to comment, either in the House or outside, Mr. Speaker.

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• (1500)

[English]

## AGRICULTURE

## REMOVAL OF OATS FROM CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

**Mr. Rod Laporte (Moose Jaw—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds but since he is not in the House I will direct it to the Minister of Agriculture. Earlier this year the Minister of State for Grains and Oilseeds announced that oats would be removed from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board. He indicated then and again on later occasions that he had consulted with producers and was simply acting on their wishes.

If it can be demonstrated that a large majority of producers do not in fact want oats removed from the jurisdiction of the Canadian Wheat Board, will the Minister then heed those wishes and retain oats under the Canadian Wheat Board?