

*Oral Questions*REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INTRODUCE MEASURES BEFORE
END OF SESSION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. I think the Secretary of State should show some respect for this institution and answer the questions that are put to him. On Friday, his leader promised he would read officially, as he said, the letter from Senator Hébert. He promised to consult with his ministers in order to announce a program and thus try and put an end to the situation that exists in the other place, in the Senate. Could the Secretary of State inform the House whether or not they intend to take action before the end of this session?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the Hon. Member for Shefford say that the Prime Minister announced he would make a decision in terms of what is happening across the corridor. The Prime Minister of Canada has never established any connection between a decision on youth policy and what is happening on the other side. A decision on Katimavik or any other program will never be made in terms of what is happening across the corridor.

INQUIRY WHEN GOVERNMENT WILL ACT

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State can put his head in the sand as much as he likes, but the fact is that today, there is one senator who is into his fifteenth day of fasting. What I am asking the Secretary of State is this: Do they intend to let him die or are they going to act as they are supposed to act, which is as soon as possible?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, Senator Hébert, to whom the Hon. Member is referring, made a decision that I respect, but it is his decision, it is not a decision by the Government of Canada. I am very sorry, but this Government will not respond to this kind of gesture by changing fundamental policies on which the administration of this country depends. That is true today, and will continue to be a week from now.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HONDURAS—MURDER OF CANADIAN MISSIONARY PRIEST

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister. All Canadians have been saddened and shocked by the reports of the tragic death of a Canadian missionary priest in Central America in the past week. Would the Deputy Prime Minister tell us what action the Government is taking in response to this terrible incident? Are External Affairs officers presently in Honduras involved in an inquiry? Have we asked

the Honduran Government for an official report on the circumstances surrounding this tragedy?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Of course, Mr. Speaker, we deeply regret the death of Father Arsenault in Honduras. We have taken the necessary measures this morning and asked our embassy in Guatemala to find out exactly what happened and why the murder took place. Naturally our embassy provides the required support in such painful human situations, and we have assured the family that immediate action will be taken to bring back the remains of Father Arsenault.

[English]

SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, in view of this incident and of the wide variety of turbulence which is taking place in that region, is the Government prepared to re-evaluate or reassess the risk to the security and safety of many Canadians who are now working in that area as missionaries or as volunteers? In fact, is the Government looking at the necessity to increase substantially its diplomatic presence and have more embassies in that region, in view of this increased activity and the risk which Canadians will be facing?

● (1420)

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, we already have programs in Central America. As we said on several occasions, very specific and special measures are being implemented to meet the standards of that country.

As to our embassies, we have increased our presence in Costa Rica and Guatemala. We can say that the two embassies that represent us are doing outstanding work and, of course, we keep a very close watch on the situation.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

IMPACT OF BUDGET ON INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance. Is it her Government's view of fairness that a person who had a taxable income in 1984 of \$2,040 and who, as a result of that, paid no tax, should, as a result of the changes introduced by the Minister of Finance, now be required to pay \$190.30 tax on that selfsame taxable income in 1985?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, we have spoken about fairness in this House