

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, we are not on the eve of an election.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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

**Mr. Hees:** For how long does the government intend to remain in its present state of petrified lethargy? Why does it not get on with the job?

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—AMERICAN  
GRIEVANCES AGAINST CANADA

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I wonder if he could clarify the confusion that exists between himself and his colleague. He indicated that the State Department and others had denied that there was any sort of list or anything of that kind; yet the Secretary of State for External Affairs tells us that for some time it has been known that the Americans have had a number of demands or grievances against Canada. Who is telling the truth?

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will appreciate that a question asked in those terms is not in order.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase the latter part of it. Would the right hon. gentleman attempt to reconcile the difference?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Even put in those terms, the hon. member must know that he is inviting the Prime Minister to reconcile one statement with another. I have suggested to hon. members in the past that this is debate.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member rises on a point of order. After we have heard the point of order I suggest that we give other hon. members—will the hon. member kindly resume his seat—an opportunity to ask questions on another subject and return to this one eventually.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Having listened to previous questions and answers, in the same sense I used it seemed to me that the two statements I have referred to need to be reconciled, particularly since the ministers sit in adjoining seats.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am not sure that the Chair ought to take that into account.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PURPOSE OF PROPOSED AMCHITKA NUCLEAR TEST—  
REPRESENTATIONS ON STRATEGIC GROUNDS

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. Will he tell the House whether the proposed test on Amchitka Island is for the purpose of testing a nuclear

[Mr. Hees.]

warhead to be used in the proposed AMB safeguard system. Also, has the minister made any representations on strategic grounds as to why there is no purpose in such tests?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for having advised me of his intention to ask the question. Regrettably, I cannot give him a full response today on this point.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a related question. Can the Minister of National Defence say whether he would be willing to appear before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence in order to discuss thoroughly the government's white paper on defence?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, my purpose would be to appear before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, and it would be a pleasure.

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL CODE

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

**Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Considering that murder shows an alarming increase in number in Canada, can the Prime Minister tell us if the government intends to introduce a bill reinstating capital punishment for persons found guilty of capital murder?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, not immediately, but hon. members know that the present legislation calls for revision after five years. When the time comes, the government will have to consider the matter, but it does not intend to do so now.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—IMPROVEMENT  
OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to earlier questions asked concerning the deteriorating relations between the governments of Canada and the United States. Could the Prime Minister indicate, in view of this very serious situation, what steps are being taken to correct it and whether or not some proposal is being made to the American administration with respect to better communications and a better exchange of information concerning the vital points of mutual interest to both our economies?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, with respect, we believe there is nothing wrong with the communications. The difficulty—

**Mr. Hees:** Is with the relations.