

economic, social, cultural and political life, which merit extensive public hearings, will the Minister postpone any decision on that subject until the views of Canadians are fully canvassed?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, once again we would welcome Canadians taking advantage of the special committee process to express their views on trade questions, if the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party would allow the committee to sit, and allow the people to be heard.

Let me take the implications of the Hon. Member's question. This committee that we want to establish and which the opposition Parties refuse to let us establish, reports at the end of May next year. That is a year hence. The Liberal Party is now proposing that we delay any decision on trade matters for at least a year, in other words that we wait a year while thousands and thousands of Canadian jobs are threatened by protectionism in the United States. We are not going to put at risk thousands and thousands of Canadian jobs as the Liberal Party suggests.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FINANCE

FORTHCOMING BUDGET—PREPARATION OF BRIEFING MATERIAL BY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister as well. It has to do with a memorandum from Jerry Lampert, the national director of the Progressive Conservative Party, to the various Progressive Conservative constituency presidents, suggesting that party headquarters will be preparing the following material to be available, prepared radio material, press releases, speech notes, background packages, to riding associations on budget night. In the spirit and the tradition of budget secrecy, will the Acting Prime Minister explain how it will be possible to get information to party headquarters and those kinds of releases unless the secrecy provision is broken?

Mr. Crosbie: You have to be quick.

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I remember some of the issues in Kamloops-Shuswap in the last election campaign and I won't ask how the Hon. Member happened to get on the Progressive Conservative mailing list. Let me simply assure him that the principles of budget secrecy will be fully respected in the presentation of the Budget by the Minister of Finance on May 23.

METHOD OF PREPARING MATERIAL

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. The Minister of Finance is going to give his speech late

Oral Questions

Thursday afternoon, up until six o'clock. How will it be possible to have prepared radio material available, a background package of speech notes, and budget information for Members of Parliament, constituency presidents and others, all within a matter of hours? How could this be possible unless there has been a leak of party officials that in fact budget material would be moving out of the Department of Finance and into party headquarters?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it may be that the New Democratic Party communicates by semaphore, if it communicates at all. I simply repeat my assurance to the Hon. Member that the principles of budget secrecy will be respected absolutely by the Minister of Finance and this Government when the Budget is brought down on May 23.

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WAR CRIMINALS

SUBJECTS REFERRED TO ROYAL COMMISSION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask him about his Government's war criminal policy. When the Deschênes royal commission was established the Minister told this House that the Government would continue to be active in dealing with war criminals while the commission was working. I know that the Minister and the Government like to criticize the former Government on war criminals, but we have an example here of this Government breaking its commitments on the subject of remaining active on war criminals.

Is the Minister satisfied with the Secretary of State for External Affairs deciding that the question of extradition to Israel should be referred to that royal commission, instead of taking up Israel's interest and acting on it now? Is he satisfied with a decision announced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration that the Kiselaitis case would be referred to that royal commission for study, instead of being referred to the police for action?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I frankly do not know how the hon. gentleman has the gall and the audacity to ask any questions on this subject. After 35 years of Liberal indifference, obfuscation, twisted immigration policy and all the rest, we have taken firm and decisive action on this matter. We have a commission studying these issues that will report back by the end of the year. I am quite satisfied that they are doing well. They are making good progress. These issues should be studied by them. That's why they are set up. For the first time since 1945 this whole matter is having a proper ventilation and some decent action.