

*Oral Questions*

tell us quite frankly the basis upon which the calculation of income tax collections was made and a real rate of growth of 5 per cent. Would the minister please be frank and tell us what the rate of inflation was assumed to be for the purpose of the calculation?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, the rate of return on the tax is not only based on assumptions of inflation but on assumptions of the strength of the economy, assumptions of the strength of the economy in various income ranges. As I said last night I am not in a position to predict a rate of inflation for Canada in 1974 for the reasons I mentioned last night.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the minister is being difficult about this. He just said this calculation was based on other assumptions besides an assumption of the rate of inflation, indicating there was some assumption made about the rate of inflation for the purpose of this calculation. I ask the minister to give us this information so that we can judge the value of the calculation. What was the rate of inflation upon which this calculation was based? There were other assumptions as to the rate of growth and other things the minister has mentioned, but what was the rate of inflation upon which this calculation was based?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** There are so many interrelated factors. We went through this exercise last year on the budget and I give the Leader of the Opposition the same answer I gave him on the last occasion.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. There are three or four or more supplementaries. Hon. members, I am sure, will want to spend most of the question period on this matter which actually should be dealt with when we reach the budget debate, but I will recognize hon. members for these supplementaries in a moment after we have completed the first round of questioning. The hon. member for Brant.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY****SUGGESTED INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS BY \$500 A YEAR  
IN LINE WITH INCREASE GRANTED CERTAIN PUBLIC  
SERVANTS**

**Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact the government recently gave a \$500 a year increase to certain members of the Public Service, specifically to cope with rising inflation, is it the minister's intention to do the same thing for those receiving old age security and, if not, why not?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, that question was put in similar terms yesterday. I am not in a position to respond to it in positive terms because they are two different types of situations.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

[Translation]

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****LACK OF NEWS BROADCAST ON FRENCH NETWORK BECAUSE  
OF ACTION BY EMPLOYEES**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Since the entire French network of the CBC was paralyzed last evening, so that the Canadian people were deprived of the national news due to a work stoppage ordered by stupid and irresponsible individuals, does the Prime Minister intend to ask a thorough cleaning of the CBC piggery contaminated by well-known separatists and leftists?

**Mr. Grafftey:** Incredible!

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, as the House no doubt knows, the work stoppage to which the Social Credit leader referred to comes under the Canadian Labour Code. We hope that the CBC authorities will act firmly in that illegal strike, as the House also hopes. For the moment, I think it would be premature for the government to intervene in that strike, but once again, I hope that the authorities will find a solution to that strike which is not only illegal but whose timing strangely seems to have been in contempt of Parliament representing the entire nation.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary.

I realize that it behooves the CBC to take decisions, but I would like to know if the Prime Minister and the government intend to recommend to the corporation that it deal severely with those responsible for this absolutely illegal strike?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I suppose that the hon. member's question and the reply I just gave will be broadcast, if not on the CBC network at least on those of the other radio and television stations, and that the strikers will probably be informed of our views, mine and that of the hon. member.

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[English]

**FINANCE****PROPOSED ONTARIO TAX ON LAND SPECULATION—POSITION  
OF MINISTER RESPECTING DEDUCTIBILITY**

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Finance clarify for Ontario citizens whether he is undercutting the provincial tax on land speculation by removing one of the bases of the tax, namely, the deductibility provision with regard to such tax?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, that bill is still before the Ontario legislature so there is no undercutting at all.

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