

House, I feel that it totally lacks the element of urgency which is absolutely required by the provisions of Standing Order 43.

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[English]

### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### PETITION REQUESTING CANADIAN SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

**Mr. John Roberts (St. Paul's):** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to introduce a petition to the House of Commons. It is a petition presented by the Beth Tzedec Congregation of Toronto. It is on a single slip of paper over 370 feet long, the length of a football field. It contains thousands of signatures. The petitioners indicate their solidarity for the state of Israel and request that the House of Commons support Israel by a resolution in the House and prevail upon Her Majesty's government to support the state of Israel at the United Nations.

● (1420)

### ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

#### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

##### INFLATION—MATTERS ON WHICH GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING CONSENSUS OF VARIOUS GROUPS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** My question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister and it is with regard to the program of trying to achieve a consensus among the principal elements of our economy to which he referred in the Speech from the Throne, and apparently again discussed yesterday at the meeting of the ministers of finance and provincial treasurers. Can the Prime Minister tell us briefly about what the government is trying to seek a consensus. Is it trying to seek a consensus on guidelines with respect to wages, salaries or profits?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Beyond what the Minister of Finance and myself have said on this on other occasions, I would just inform the House that the Minister of Finance has been talking about this at the meetings taking place yesterday and today, that he will be reporting to cabinet on Thursday, and that I expect that the series of consultations which are going forward would be made known to the House in a fairly short time.

**Mr. Stanfield:** That would be fine if it were Alice in Wonderland, but we are here in parliament. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he can indicate what it is on which the Minister of Finance is trying to seek a consensus. Is that an improper question to direct to the head of the government who has been talking around this subject for several months now? Can the Prime Minister indicate to us very briefly whether the consensus being sought is a consensus on guidelines?

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Trudeau:** The consensus being sought is one on achieving ways of slowing down the rate of inflation and, I hope, bringing it down to a level which will cause the government less concern. That is the general subject of the consultations. The object of meetings of the various groups differs according to the groups that are meeting. Various ministers will be meeting various groups and discussing different aspects of inflation with them.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I have one final supplementary question. Is the Minister of Finance then seeking a consensus on economic theory, on what is the correct attack on inflation in Canada in the year 1974-75? Is it the approach about which the consensus is being sought and, if so, when may we expect a response, some time in this decade or the next?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Hopefully in this decade.

**Mr. Stanfield:** I doubt it.

#### RATES OF INFLATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT ON WHICH BUDGET PROPOSALS BASED

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the reports that are coming out of the Finance Minister's conference that the Minister of Finance based his budget on the assumption of a 9 per cent inflation and 6½ per cent rate of unemployment, can the Prime Minister assure the House that these are in fact the projections or assumptions on which the November 18 budget was based?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I could not say for sure, but I am sure the Minister of Finance will be glad to answer that.

**Mr. Gillies:** In view of those reports, would it be a fair statement that the government is prepared to accept as successful an inflation rate of something like 10 per cent during 1975?

**Mr. Trudeau:** We constantly indicated that inflation at these rates is inflation that gives the government great concern, and that is the reason we brought in so many policies to combat it. We hope that these policies—

#### UNEMPLOYMENT—REASON FOR FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNEMPLOYED NATIVE PEOPLE IN PREPARING MONTHLY FIGURES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce I should like to put my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that the National Indian Brotherhood estimates the level of unemployment amongst native people living on reserves in Canada varies between 50 per cent and 80 per cent at the present time, can the Prime Minister inform the House why these unemployment levels are not taken into consideration in the preparation of the monthly figures indicating unemployment levels in the country as a whole?