

Oral Questions

Canadians generally, for submissions to the Department of Finance on that white paper.

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TAXATION

Mr. Dick Harris (Prince George—Bulkley Valley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, this government still refuses to rule out tax increases in the upcoming budget. This should come as no surprise considering the Liberal's spending habits. For example, the minister of national decadence has had his Toronto office—

The Speaker: Order. I would encourage all hon. members to address each other with decorum. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw the word decadence.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the spending habits of the Liberals influenced my speaking. I withdraw that comment.

• (1450)

Mr. Speaker, \$500,000 spent to refurbish the offices in Toronto, subsidization for posh houses for military brass and paying for their golf vacations in Florida. The minister of furnishings and oceans, not to be outdone, has spent millions of dollars on new equipment for his department and tens of thousands of dollars for his own office.

How on earth can the Prime Minister expect Canadians to cough up more tax dollars? Does he believe, as the hon. member from Broadview—Greenwood believes, that Canadians will simply roll over and pay?

The Speaker: The hon. member for Bourassa.

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[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

Mr. Osvaldo Nunez (Bourassa, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Despite interventions by a number of women's rights groups, the minister intends to have a refugee from Trinidad and Tobago, who is the victim of spousal abuse, deported on Friday. She was divorced in 1991 after being beaten by her former husband, who has returned to Quebec on a special ministerial permit.

Does the minister intend to intervene by stopping the deportation of Taramatie Ramsubhag and her three children cancelled?

[English]

Hon. Sergio Marchi (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for his question and point out to him and his colleagues in the House that the individual in question, although it is difficult to talk about the facts of an individual case, has had two refugee

hearings. Both of those hearings turned out negative. Her removal, as a consequence of those negative hearings, was delayed so that the gender persecution guidelines—the only country in the world to have such guidelines—could be applied, were applied and those guidelines were negative.

I want to say to the hon. member—and I think he ought to be fair—that the system was completely fulsome and fair with this individual. If there is any new information that was not brought to light in three previous hearings I would urge the hon. member to bring the information to my attention so that it can be quickly considered.

[Translation]

Mr. Osvaldo Nunez (Bourassa, BQ): Mr. Speaker, since I am not satisfied with the minister's response, I now address the Deputy Prime Minister.

Does she intend to make representations to her colleague in immigration, since she was personally involved in 1993 in blocking the deportation of a group of 14 immigrant women, including Mrs. Ramsubhag, who were victims of spousal abuse?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, we took measures in 1993. We are the only country in the world with an Immigration Act that contains guidelines on the institution of proceedings in the case of sexual discrimination. We promised this in 1993 and we delivered.

We are the only country in the world to recognize it. Some countries are discriminatory. These guidelines are to enable eligible women to obtain refugee status.

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[English]

FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

Mr. Lee Morrison (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, during the winter break the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food reached way down into the Liberal hack bag in order to find an appointee for the board of the Farm Credit Corporation. Joan Meyer, a long time constituency backroomer, was campaign manager for failed Liberal candidate Rob Heindrichs and is married to Liberal party contributor and failed provincial candidate Don Meyer.

What qualifications, apart from her unimpeachable Liberal party credentials, does Mrs. Meyer have for this appointment?

The Speaker: My colleagues, I would ask you to consider the nature of the questions. Perhaps they might better be answered and more specifically answered on the Order Paper when we get down to specifics.