Oral Ouestions

committed a shocking injustice as far as older workers are concerned.

Can the Prime Minister explain why his Government is denying our military, our veterans and our senior citizens the right to express their views? Why discriminate against these people? Why have the hypocrisy to applaud?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Malépart: Mrs. Solange Denis and Charlie Brown.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please! The Hon. Minister has the floor.

Mr. Bouchard: Mr. Speaker, I only want to say to the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie that the retirees want a one-day debate only, not the type of shouting we have just heard. They want to get paid, sir, if you please.

Mr. Malépart: Two days of debate.

[English]

HARBOURFRONT

TORONTO PROJECT—FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, once the Liberals calm down, I will direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. It concerns the Harbourfront property in Toronto.

Will the Minister advise the House why, in the name of heaven, just three weeks after imposing a freeze at Harbour-front, he approved a new lease for development at that site? Is there a freeze at Harbourfront or isn't there a freeze?

Hon. Stewart McInnes (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the freeze continues. The lease which was recently signed with Wang and Danetsky was a formalization of an agreement entered into some years ago. The Government was legally committed. The freeze continues, and there are many other approvals which this developer must obtain specifically from the Toronto planning authorities before anything further happens.

NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY

CONFIDENTIALITY OF BANK ACCOUNTS—CONTENT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. As he knows, a significant and effective component

of U.S. legislation against the laundering of illicit drug generated income is its Bank Secrecy Act. It looks as though Canada is not to follow suit.

Would the Prime Minister confirm or deny that the legislation against money laundering will not include a requirement for reporting on the part of financial institutions and banks in Canada?

a (1450)

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, this particular question is relevant to financial institutions. I have to tell the Hon. Member that I cannot speculate, and I know he would understand that, on the contents of legislation which has not yet been introduced in the House. I suggest that he wait until the legislation is introduced by my colleague, the Hon. Minister of Justice.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—Walkerville): Mr. Speaker, would the Government not agree that the failure to have a reporting component to this legislation would be like loading up a gun with blanks, especially when four Canadian banks are already under investigation for the laundering of money in the Bahamas?

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, as I said, the way that issue will be handled will become evident in the legislation.

REPORTING OF LARGE BANK DEPOSITS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is on the same subject, the Government's so-called war on drug abuse. It appears clear now that the legislation to be introduced tomorrow will not include a provision that would require Canadian banks and financial institutions to report large sums of money that have been deposited in their institutions.

Can the Prime Minister give the House his undertaking that the legislation that will be introduced tomorrow will include a provision requiring the banks to report? If not, why will that provision not be in the legislation?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, one has to wonder why hon. gentlemen are asking these questions. They pooh-poohed the fact that there was any problem with drug abuse in Canada a few months ago when the Prime Minister introduced the subject. Now they are trying to show an interest in it.

The legislation in question that will deal with the proceeds of crime was under study and review last year. It will be introduced this week. If there are any improvements to it that Hon. Members would suggest, they may suggest them in committee. I would suggest that we wait until it is introduced before we have a vigorous debate on the provisions of legislation that is not yet known.