

we have made, that only 5 per cent will be there. It could be more.

I want to point out to the Hon. Member that if there is a greater degree of competition, as will come from the free trade agreement, possibly we will see a greater increase in the price reductions as a result of the free trade agreement. Nothing is hidden whatsoever.

DEPARTMENT'S STUDY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is precisely that misleading approach which the Government has taken in another one of its propaganda documents, the one talking about Canadian consumers and the benefits they will get from the trade deal. It says precisely: "Retailers will pass on to consumers the price reductions resulting from the elimination of tariffs under the agreement". That comes directly from the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Ministry's study which was issued after that December 16 memorandum.

Why is the Government, at taxpayers' expense, putting out misleading propaganda which is telling consumers something that is not true?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, quite frankly I think this is total distortion of what we are trying to do. In the analysis that we have provided on the free trade agreement we have said that there will be a reduction, in our judgment, of 5 per cent on the price of consumer goods. That takes into account a judgment that we have made that the full savings would not be passed on to consumers. However, if the full savings are passed on to consumers, then that 5 per cent will be a larger number. Surely that is not distorting or misleading the consumer.

As I said in my previous answer, if we had not made that more conservative assumption the Hon. Member would be standing up and saying, in a voice of feigned outrage, that we have been exaggerating the impact of the free trade agreement. This has been a conservative, realistic approach to the effects of the free trade agreement.

Mr. Langdon: Yes, but it is not the approach that was taken by the Government's own study from another Department, which was misleading and classifies absolutely as false propaganda.

[Translation]

POSITION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATIONS OF QUÉBEC

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

Does the Government now agree with the National Federation of Consumers' Associations of Québec that there will be very few benefits for consumers as a result of this agreement?

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker—

Ms. Copes: Read Steven's householder for a change.

An Hon. Member: Why do you not shut up for a change, Sheila?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Yes, now for Steven's householder.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask that Hon. Members refrain from remarks when questions are being asked—

Some Hon. Members: Table the householder.

Mr. Speaker: I would ask that both sides exercise the courtesies that are expected.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has just made references to statements of the Government being misleading. Let me read from his householder in which there is a statement that I think is totally misleading. Referring to the free trade agreement it says: "it will let American companies turn our health care system in a for-profit direction that will hurt patients and nurses". That is absolutely false. It is garbage.

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York—South Weston.

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PAROLE

INQUESTS INTO TORONTO DEATHS

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It concerns the operation of half-way houses in Canada, particularly in Metro Toronto.

Recently two innocent people, Tema Conter and William Woods, were murdered by two inmates released to Montgomery House, a privately run half-way house in Toronto.

Provincial inquests are scheduled to begin in late September, early October. It now appears that the federal Government intends to challenge the jurisdiction of these inquests. Why does the Government intend to obstruct and delay these investigations? Is it not because they will embarrass the Government right in the middle of a general election campaign?

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows, as he indicated, that these inquests have been scheduled for September 21 and October 6. The federal Government is