

### Oral Questions

Our monetary policy is disastrous . . . it overestimates the effects of inflation. We can adjust to inflation, but not to . . . high interest rates. They're too much of a burden for the budgets of families and businesses.

In light of the opinion of that hon. member and of the overwhelming majority of people in this country, will the Prime Minister now follow that advice and change the government's monetary policy before the economic conference in Versailles next month?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan is, of course, right in deploring the high interest rates. The hon. member can be sure that we are taking into account his advice and that of all caucus members in establishing the posture we will be taking in Versailles.

#### PRIME MINISTER'S REPLY

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister just said that the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan is right in his analysis that the monetary policy of the government is a disaster. If the member from Thunder Bay-Atikokan is right, I want to know why the Prime Minister is not changing the monetary interest rate policy of Canada.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I do not know whom the hon. member is trying to fool, but I said that the hon. member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan was right when he said the interest rates were too high. If the hon. member reads what he said as a comment on that, he will see that it is completely inaccurate and false.

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### LAW OF THE SEA

#### EFFECT OF AGREEMENT ON CANADA

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the monumental agreement on the Law of the Sea which was recently achieved by the United Nations, would the minister advise this House of the major effects which this agreement will have on Canada?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, as with every agreement of this kind, the achievement is based on a series of compromises which do not entirely satisfy the national interest of any country. However, for coastal states such as Canada, the gain of the 12-mile territorial sea and the 200-mile economic zone, and especially for a country like Canada with the recognition of the continental shelf, there will be, when the treaty is in effect, an enormous leap forward in our control over our offshore resources.

I might say that the greatest importance of this treaty is not what it does for a single country like Canada, however meritorious our claims may be, but the fact that especially in the law of the deep-sea bed we have for the first time the recognition of a common heritage of mankind, and the setting

up of an institution which can act for the benefit of all mankind.

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### THE JUDICIARY

#### POLICY GOVERNING MINISTERIAL COMMUNICATIONS

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In light of his earlier answer on the matter of Claude English, would he object to any of his ministers writing to any judge in similar circumstances about anybody in the future? Would he object to having them write to the parole board or to the Commissioner of Corrections? Does he have any policies with respect to conflict of interest matters such as the one that was raised here this afternoon?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the question is hypothetical in nature. I was asked about a specific case. I gave the answer as best I could. I would have to consider any other questions in light of the circumstances when they are posed.

**Mr. Kilgour:** The Prime Minister is unbelievable on this and many other issues.

#### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Madam Speaker, specifically would the Prime Minister object if his Solicitor General wrote a letter to the parole board or to the Commissioner of Corrections, who in effect is his employee, about this matter now that Mr. English is in a federal institution?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, my recollection of the guidelines is that they do not cover cases of that kind. The guidelines indicate that no minister of the government should try to influence a court of record by dealing with it in a surreptitious way or in a way which was generally outside the presence of lawyers or of the other party involved.

• (1440)

My recollection of the spirit of the guidelines is that it was precisely to prevent a minister from trying to influence a judge toward one side presumably without the other side being present to make the contrary case. If that is the spirit of the guidelines I think the Solicitor General acted within that spirit by doing something overtly which the other lawyer and the other party were presumably prepared and disposed to challenge, the result of which was an opinion of a judge which I heard quoted across the aisle—but I am not aware of the details of this case.

Once again I am not prepared to make an over-all statement beyond those guidelines that were issued some years ago