

Oral Questions

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Now who's shouting?

Mr. Drury: Hees!

Mr. Stanfield: They have done their job over there. They sold out their province the other day.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: I just want to say to the Prime Minister that I watched him very carefully and he deliberately—

Some hon. Members: Question!

Mr. Stanfield: I am speaking on a point of order. He deliberately just said one or two words very quietly. I was listening with my earphone on—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield:—and I would not have been able to hear him with my earphone if the House had been quiet. He did it deliberately to affront the House and to try to create a situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will not attempt to rule on the points of order that have been raised, but certainly there is a great deal of noise. I am not sure whether it comes from my left or my right or from where it comes, but it is difficult to hear both the questions and the answers that are given. I think hon. members might want to give members a chance to ask their questions and ministers an opportunity to reply so that we could all hear what is being said.

Mr. Hees: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order. We have already spent five minutes on this matter, trying to get on with the first question. I would think that with a bit of good will we might be able to continue now with the question period.

Mr. Hees: My point of order is that if the Prime Minister would answer the questions put to him by the representatives of the people, serious questions wanting to know what the government is going to do to stop the rise in the cost of living we could get on with the question period a lot farther than we have. He sits in his chair and he sulks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: He is an absolute disgrace.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Hees: If any of you guys want to step outside, I am ready for that too.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is not a very valid point of order. Obviously it is a continuation of the dispute. I suggest to hon. members that they should forget about points of order for a moment and return to the question period which is being exhausted slowly but surely by these points of order.

Mr. Benjamin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is a request to you, Sir, to be good enough to deduct one question to be asked by a member of the Official Opposition each time they rise on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: You are not making the decisions.

Mr. Speaker: I will deduct one point of order from the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, perhaps if you deducted the New Democratic Party from the opposition you might be doing this country a real service because they show no interest whatsoever in the people of Canada and this inflationary situation. I would like to ask the Prime Minister, who sits there smugly and complacently, if he can now give the House and the country the assurance that the government is prepared to act immediately to bring relief to Canadians who are suffering as a consequence of the 18 per cent annual increase in the cost of food?

Mr. Hees: Come on, little Lord Fauntleroy. Get on your feet.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway.

Mr. McGrath: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member rises on a point of order.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I believe the House and the country are entitled to know, especially on the eve of the adjournment of parliament for perhaps a six week recess, just exactly what this government proposes to do about the most serious problem facing the country today, namely, the 9 per cent runaway rate of inflation and the 18 per cent annual increase in the cost of food.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Vancouver Kingsway has been recognized by the Chair.

INCREASE IN FOOD PRICES—SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION OF EXCESS PROFITS TAX

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I have no intention of trying to outshout other hon. members, although I could.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!