

State for Urban Affairs. Has the meeting scheduled for May 21 with the provincial ministers of housing been cancelled and, if so, why?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, no meeting was scheduled. A date was discussed among several of the housing ministers and myself. It is unlikely that I will be able to make it on that date, but I am trying to arrange a date that would be satisfactory to all of us.

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THE BUDGET

EFFECT OF POSTPONEMENT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL HOUSING MINISTERS ON DATE OF PRESENTATION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. Given that the Minister of Finance has stated that the whole range of federal initiatives in housing is being reviewed for the forthcoming budget, would the minister say if the postponement of discussions regarding housing with the provincial ministers of housing means a further delay in the presentation of the budget?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I have enough trouble scheduling meetings with my colleagues in the provinces without being concerned in every detail with how my own colleagues are able to achieve it.

An hon. Member: You don't count, Barney.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Am I to take it from the minister's reply that the proposals to the provincial governments regarding shelter, to which he referred in the House on Wednesday, are not to be part of the consensus talks or the budget proposals and that stimulation of the housing sector remains a very low priority with this government?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): No, Mr. Speaker, the hon. lady should not assume that.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT

GOVERNMENT VIEW OF PROGRESS IN LIMITING FOREIGN CONTROL OF ECONOMY—FUTURE INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO ACT

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that after two years of operation the Foreign Investment Review Act has reduced the proportion of foreign controlled business by only one per cent of the combined book value of all business, is the government satisfied that sufficient progress has been made in limiting foreign control of the Canadian economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is only referring to one area in

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which the government is acting to increase domestic control of our economic environment, and I think he should consider the total picture before making an assessment.

Mr. Symes: In view of the statements made yesterday by the Minister of Finance in Welland that he would like to see more foreign investment in Canada, is it now government policy to downplay the aim and intent of the Foreign Investment Review Act?

Mr. Trudeau: I am not sure whether the minister was accurately quoted, but we have never said in this party that we were opposed to foreign investment. What we have said is that we want to make sure that it operates for the significant benefit of Canadians, and in this sense we continue to allow foreign investment in this country.

Mr. Symes: The Minister of Finance stated yesterday that the government is also reviewing all statutes and policies affecting foreign investment in Canada. Is this the reason that Part Two of the Foreign Investment Review Act dealing with new foreign business and foreign business expansion in unrelated fields has not yet been proclaimed as law?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

WORK STOPPAGES IN QUEBEC—POSSIBLE USE OF RCMP TO PROTECT CONSTRUCTION SITES

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): My question was intended for the Solicitor General, but in his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister. It may be somewhat supplementary to an earlier question, but I would like a precise answer, if possible. In view of the continuing work stoppages throughout Quebec construction sites because of the possibility that the province would put unions under trusteeship, is the government prepared, if requested by the government of Quebec, to authorize RCMP officers to go in to protect construction sites against violence which may occur because of the unrest in the labour movement in Quebec at present?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know of no requests having been made of the federal government to assist them. If the question is hypothetical, then obviously it does not have to be answered.

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AIR CANADA

ALLEGED LOSS ON FLIGHTS BETWEEN MONTREAL, OTTAWA AND TORONTO—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. A. C. Abbott (Mississauga): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In recent testimony Air Canada has stated that it lost \$19 million last year on flights between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. Considering the high load factor on these routes, as evidenced by the consistent difficulty faced in obtaining seats between Ottawa and Toronto, can the