

Inquiries of the Ministry

of the government's position with regard to the auto pact, and particularly whether the government is in fact ready to agree to the removal of the safeguards contained in it.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As I have just indicated to the Leader of the Opposition, it is possible that by next Monday we will be in a position to state to the president Canada's bargaining position on this. I am not in a position to do so now. Both I and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce have said that the auto pact has been under discussion for many months, even before President Nixon's measures last August, and that of course there is always the possibility that one or the other side would denounce the pact and cease making it operative. That is why in our discussions we have always tried to ensure that there would not only be the best possible deal for Canada but that there would be also a deal which would be acceptable to the United States.

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH U.S. PRESIDENT—POSSIBLE LACK OF NECESSITY TO BARGAIN FOR REMOVAL OF SURTAX

Mr. David Lewis (York South): May I ask the Prime Minister whether he will inform the House, and therefore the people of Canada, what the government's position is with regard to the negotiations on the auto pact. May I also ask him whether he has found, in the surveys that have been made I understand, that the impact of the 10 per cent surtax makes it unnecessary for him to seek to bargain with the president of the U.S. to have it removed so far as Canada is concerned.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): We always took the position that we would not bargain for the removal of the 10 per cent surcharge. It was a unilateral decision by the United States, and we do not intend to bargain in any sense with the United States or to give away any of the things which we believe to be in Canada's interest in exchange for the withdrawal by the U.S. of its unilateral measure. As to the auto pact itself, it has been under discussion for many months, as I have said, long before the measures last August, and the two subjects are not related.

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH U.S. PRESIDENT—APPROVAL OF GRAY REPORT AND SCREENING MECHANISM BY WASHINGTON

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): In the discussions which the Prime Minister will have with the president of the U.S., can he assure the House that the so-called leaked Gray report will not be approved by the president before it is approved by the Parliament of Canada?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may ask a supplementary question.

Mr. Nowlan: In view of the fact that the Prime Minister failed to rise in his place to answer my first very logical and serious question, could the Prime Minister assure the House and thus the country that the screening mechanism outlined in the Gray report is not to be the White House of the U.S.?

[Mr. Lewis.]

Mr. Speaker: I will return to the hon. member for York South for a supplementary question.

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP BEFORE PRIME MINISTER MEETS U.S. PRESIDENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in order to avoid misunderstanding, whether we can expect that he or some member of the cabinet will announce the government's policy with regard to foreign ownership, the screening process or whatever elements there are in that policy, before he sees the president of the U.S. and therefore before he discusses that policy with him, because in answer to a question some days ago the Prime Minister said that that subject might be discussed with the president of the U.S. Therefore, I would like to know whether we will hear from him before that happens.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): When I dealt with this matter a few days ago, I indicated that the government intended announcing its policy and publishing the background material on the facts and the analysis at the same time. I indicated that this was really a technical question of translation, printing, editing, and so on. I made this announcement before I, myself, knew that I was going to see the president next Monday, and we have been trying to do this as quickly as possible. The government's position is known to the government. We will make it known to the country as soon as possible under the conditions which I indicated to the House a few weeks ago.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNITED STATES SURCHARGE—POSSIBILITY OF REMOVAL IF AUTO PACT SAFEGUARDS REMOVED

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Has the government received any assurance from the government of the United States that the 10 per cent surcharge, as it applies to imports from Canada, will be removed if the two principal safeguards embodied in the auto pact are eliminated?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER WITH U.S. PRESIDENT—INQUIRY AS TO AGENDA—POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): In view of the questions being put to the Prime Minister I wonder, without going into detail because I am not suggesting that would be proper, whether the Prime Minister would make a short statement before he goes to see the president