

*Inquiries of the Ministry*EFFECT OF UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—
DISCUSSION WITH WASHINGTON OF OPTIONS
AVAILABLE TO CANADA

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): May I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. On either of the two missions to Washington by ministers and government officials or in any subsequent conversations dealing with the effects of United States economic measures, was there any discussion about the options that might be available to Canada and which might be taken? Was that the subject of any conversations with the government of the United States?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is not very clear to me. I am not aware of the nature of the options which the hon. member is suggesting might have been offered to Canada. What type of options has the hon. member in mind?

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Let me try in a supplementary way to enlighten the Prime Minister. During either of the two missions or in communications since that time were the subject matter or contents of Bill C-262 discussed with officials of the United States to determine whether or not this would be acceptable to them inasmuch as the government likes to know what the government of the United States thinks about what it plans to do?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the answer is no, not only to the question but to the innuendo.

SUGGESTED INCOME TAX CUT TO STIMULATE SALES,
PRODUCTION AND JOBS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, as President Nixon presented in his message to Congress today a proposal for stimulating the United States economy very similar to that which the official opposition has been pressing on the government for some time—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees:—specifically, a substantial cut in income tax, is the government giving consideration to introducing such a measure—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It is my understanding that the hon. member has asked his question.

Mr. Hees: My question, which I had already started, is whether the government is now giving consideration to introducing such a measure to stimulate sales, production and jobs in this country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the difference between us and the opposition is that we did in June what the opposition is suggesting that the United States will be doing now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of members who want to ask supplementary questions. At this point the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Abitibi.

[Translation]

DISCUSSION WITH GATT MEMBERS BEFORE
PRESENTATION OF EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BILL

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Would the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce tell us if he had any contacts or discussions with the GATT member countries concerning non-tariff barriers before or after he introduced Bill C-262?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings has a supplementary question. Perhaps he should be recognized now.

Mr. Hees: My supplementary is, as unemployment today is exactly—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member but the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Pepin: This is a small point, Mr. Speaker, but it could be important. I want to say that I said "no" to the last question and not "yes" as was stated in the translation.

Mr. Hees: Now we will get on with it, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: As unemployment today is at exactly the same level it was when the Minister of Finance introduced his budget three months ago, is it not obvious to the Prime Minister and the government that the measures introduced then are completely inadequate to deal with the present situation and that a substantial tax cut is needed today to get the economy on its feet?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

CLOSING OF GROUNDWOOD MILL AT SHEET HARBOUR,
N.S.—LAY-OFFS AT BOWATER MILL, CORNER BROOK,
NFLD.—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the shutdown of the groundwood mill at Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia, and the threatened lay-offs at the Bowater plant at Corner Brook, Newfoundland, neither of which plants is affected by the 10 per cent United States import surcharge, are any steps being taken by his department or any other department of govern-