

country. It would be helpful if the opposition would indicate where it thinks we should curtail our spending—

Some hon. Members: Your office.

Mr. Bell: Information Canada.

Mr. Trudeau: —or, alternatively, to suggest what particular taxes they would like to see us raise in order to spend more money.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There have been a number of supplementaries and I think the House would agree we ought now to recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): What happened to the just society?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SPREAD OF WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA—RE-CONVENING OF CONFERENCE OF GENEVA ACCORD POWERS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister arising out of the statement made by Mr. Jacob Malik, the Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, in which he supported the proposal of the French government earlier this month for the calling of the Geneva conference in an endeavour to prevent the spreading of the war in Viet Nam to the neighbouring countries of Laos and Cambodia. Does the Canadian government intend publicly to endorse the proposal of those two governments in the hope that a conference can be called and some solution found to the problem in Southeast Asia?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am informed that the Department of External Affairs is trying to ascertain whether this proposal or suggestion constitutes, in fact, a concrete proposal by the Soviet Union. If such is the case, we are prepared to support it as we are prepared to support any initiative which would bring peace to the area.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Irrespective of whether or not the ambassador was speaking for the Soviet government—and in all probability he was; I do not think it is likely he would make such a statement otherwise—it remains a fact that the government of France has forthrightly called for this conference. Would the Prime Minister agree that in the light of Canada's membership on the International Control

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Commission we have a vital stake in this matter and that this country ought to make its views known in the hope that other nations will join with us in asking for such a conference?

Mr. Trudeau: I repeat, we welcome all efforts aimed at negotiations which would bring peace to the area and we would certainly take part in such negotiations if they were to develop.

REPORTED SLAUGHTER OF VIETNAMESE LIVING IN CAMBODIA—INVESTIGATION BY INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): In view of reports indicating there has been wholesale slaughter of Vietnamese living in Cambodia, is it the intention of the government to reactivate the International Control Commission and have the commission investigate what may be a very tragic situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The government has noted this situation. As the hon. member says, it is a tragic one, and we have been in active negotiation with the other members of the commission, the Polish and Indian governments. We are not sure at this stage whether there can be agreement between the three members to reactivate the commission but we are certainly trying to secure agreement between the three governments.

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): May I ask the Prime Minister whether Canada is the member named by Mr. Malik as the country which, as a member of the commission, insisted on withdrawing the International Control Commission from Cambodia?

Mr. Trudeau: I shall have to discuss that with the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—ROLLING BACK OF TINPLATE PRICE INCREASES

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister. On Monday of this week I asked a question of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the roll-back in the price of tinplate. The minister has not been in the House. He was supposed to be here yesterday to answer the question. He indicated that he