

Inquiries of the Ministry

External Affairs. I apologize for it being a little complicated. Was the government aware that several Canadian pulp and paper companies were under investigation for 18 months by the anti-trust division of the United States Department of Justice for practices which are perfectly legal in Canada and that during the investigation documents were removed from United States affiliates of the Canadian companies so that the Department of Justice could pursue its investigation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not as well acquainted with the details which have been put forward by the hon. member as perhaps I might be. But I would point out to him there are in existence arrangements between Canada and the United States for exchanging information with regard to certain aspects of anti-combines and anti-trust activities and pursuant to these there have been limited exchanges between officials on this matter. These discussions did not indicate there had been any infringement of Canadian sovereignty or that the United States courts were exceeding their jurisdiction to the detriment of Canadian nationals.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, in view of the resentment and concern of many Canadians, including Mr. R. M. Fowler, President of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, about these activities, does the government intend to convene an international conference which would include, of course, the United States and other governments to establish some working guidelines so that in future there would be established guidelines to deal with any future extra-territorial application of national laws?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, if another occasion does not arise before that, this is the sort of matter that is discussed at the meetings of the joint cabinet committee, but there may be an opportunity or a reason to raise this question again before that time.

* * *

FINANCE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR UNITED STATES ECONOMISTS TO FILL DEPARTMENTAL POSITIONS

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister's department not been able to fill with qualified Canadian personnel positions in the area of budgetary and fiscal planning and five other areas of economic and monetary policy within his department? If so, why is the Canadian government today advertising in *The American Economic Review* and other United States journals for United States economists with United States backgrounds to come to Canada to provide United States economic models for Canadian economic situations?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of this particular advertisement. In the Department of Finance we are always looking for very

[Mr. Fairweather.]

qualified people in the fields of economics and finance in Canada. We are continuously looking for them. We have some of the best in the world and hope to keep the standard up to that level.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister would like to put an end to this advertisement. Would he give the Canadians equal status in applying for opportunities in his department and also advertise these positions in Canadian journals?

Mr. Benson: Canadians, of course, have a preferred status in applying for jobs in my department.

* * *

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can he tell us if the Canadian government has received an invitation from the government of the United States to discuss the question of United States investment in Canada from the point of view of the rising feeling of Canadian economic nationalism in our country today?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): We have, of course, been discussing with our counterparts in the United States government the question of foreign ownership. The U.S. government indicated to us some time ago that they hoped that before we made any changes in our policy with respect to foreign ownership which would affect them particularly there would be an opportunity for consultation.

Mr. Yewchuk: Can the minister indicate whether such a meeting has now been set up and whether we can expect to have the results made known to the House?

Mr. Sharp: Since the government itself has not yet determined its policy on foreign ownership, there has been no occasion whatever for any consultations.

* * *

LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE BETWEEN RAILWAYS AND LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS—DELAY RESPECTING CONCILIATION BOARD—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): My question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the imminent threat of a complete tie-up in rail operations on both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, which can only result in serious effects on the western economy, can the minister indicate why a four-month delay was encountered before the conciliation board was constituted to deal with the contract negotiations between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the railway companies?

Mr. Speaker: I would like to suggest to the hon. member that this important matter might be considered