

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the meeting was the day before yesterday. I had an evening meeting with the Prime Minister and he explained to me that he was meeting later this week with the presidents of the various aluminum companies operating in Jamaica. He put to me various types of proposals which he would be putting to them. I would not want to betray his confidence, but I am sure they will become publicly known as soon as he puts them to the companies.

**Mr. Hellyer:** Would the Prime Minister or perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs say whether the government has undertaken any studies to determine the effect both on Canadian prices and on Canadian export markets of the various proposals being put forward by the Jamaican government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member realizes that the developments are just a few days old. The meeting in Conakry was a few days ago. There was an earlier meeting when the bauxite producing countries got together, but they are still at the initial stages and I think it would be impossible to calculate the effects of what they are going to do until they say what they are going to do and agree among themselves.

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### INFLATION—EFFECT OF AMENDMENTS TO COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT

**Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to the response of the Prime Minister yesterday during the question period to an inquiry about legislation dealing with inflation. In view of his claim that the amendments to the Combines Investigation Act now before the House represent the initial thrust of the government's anti-inflation program announced in the throne speech, could the Prime Minister point out what sections of that bill have anything at all to do with the current cost of living increases facing Canadians?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I did not, I believe, use the words "initial thrust". I said that this was part of the total thrust of the government. I would be very happy as the debate progresses to underline the parts of *Hansard* that the hon. member should read, and if he cannot understand them I will have someone explain them to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for a supplementary and then the hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

**Mr. Atkey:** If the Prime Minister had remained in the House to listen to my speech yesterday instead of rushing out after the abysmal effort of his minister—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. May we have order, please. I hope we are not going to import into the question period the debate that is to take place later. It seems to me that

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would be quite out of order, but the hon. member may ask a supplementary.

**Mr. Atkey:** May I simply ask, Mr. Speaker, what aspects of that bill are going to help keep down prices within the immediate future? I also wonder whether the Prime Minister is taking into account the rather large increases in public expenditure which will result when the bill sets up the new bureaucracy in the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister is rising to answer that very interesting question.

**Mr. Speaker:** I indicated a moment ago that the question was not in order and that is why I will not allow the right hon. gentleman to reply to it. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley.

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### GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

#### ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESULTING FROM EMPLOYMENT OF INTERTASK—POSSIBLE DISPLACEMENT OF INFORMATION CANADA

**Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I will put a question that is, I hope, in order to the Prime Minister in a spirit of conciliation. I wonder whether the Prime Minister would tell the House, in view of the conflict of interest guidelines that he tabled in the House some time ago, whether he can reconcile those guidelines with the employment of Intertask, which not only makes press arrangements for the government but one of the principal officers of the company reports on affairs of the government? Can the Prime Minister reconcile the tabling of the conflict of interest guidelines with employment by the government of Intertask?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I see no conflict of interest between the government and the people in Intertask. If the hon. member would ask a supplementary perhaps by way of additional explanation, I will attempt to answer him.

● (1510)

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary question which is not quite what the Prime Minister suggested. In view of the employment of Intertask at the federal-provincial conference last year, is Intertask going to be substituted for Information Canada or will Information Canada have any purpose left in the plans of the government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I do not think the functions are the same but, even if they were, I do not see the conflict of interest that seems to be on the hon. member's mind. Would he explain that?