

the study presently being undertaken in respect of future use of Canadian water, and also indicate what opportunity there will be for representations by interested parties in the provinces who obviously have a very large stake in the resolution of this question?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot promise to make a statement in the immediate future because I have no way of assessing how soon we will be in a position to do so.

[Translation]

FINANCE

QUEBEC—SUGGESTION OF NEW LIBERAL LEADER RESPECTING REFUND OF \$200 MILLION

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question.

Does the cabinet intend to study a suggestion by the new Quebec Liberal leader, Mr. Robert Bourassa, to the effect that the federal government should pay back to each Quebec resident his share of the \$200 million which the government of Quebec is requesting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is certain—and the statistics have often proved it—that the federal government pays in fact to the citizens of the province of Quebec for various programs huge amounts which substantially exceed the \$200 million. If this is what the provincial leader of the opposition wishes, I will say that we have already answered his request.

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF DENISON MINES LIMITED BY U.S. INTERESTS—ACTION OF GOVERNMENT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister in connection with the announcement he made last evening in relation to Denison Mines Limited, Canada's largest uranium producer. Will he tell the House when he or any member of the government first became aware of the fact that negotiations were going on between certain shareholders of Denison and United States interests, and what communications the government had with the corporation? I will have a supplementary after I get this information.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware there has been no official notification of such a transaction going on. I expect that members of the government knew about such happenings in a hypothetical way from what they may have read in the newspapers over the weekend. I do not want to say any more because I want to leave room for the supplementary question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that if we asked a supplementary question every time we did not get any information from the Prime Minister we would be at it all the time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: That being so, when did the Prime Minister become aware of the situation that was developing so as to cause him to make so unusual an announcement at such an unusual hour? Did he just find out yesterday?

Mr. Trudeau: I repeat that I had no official notification. I was told, I believe some time over the weekend, by people who do read the newspapers that this transaction was in the process of taking place. I was given to believe it would take place perhaps on Tuesday, today. That is why immediately after the weekend I had a group of ministers look at this subject and we made the decision I announced after the market closed last night.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why did the Prime Minister not communicate with the company to find out the situation in view of the control the government of Canada has over the export of uranium? Without the government's consent there can be no export. Why was the company not communicated with? Can he say this? Is what is happening another example of being the fruit of the White Paper tree?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of his statement last night with regard to Denison Mines Limited, a statement which I may inform him my colleagues and I support. Is the Prime Minister considering proposing amendments to the Atomic Energy Control Act immediately so as to prevent the possibility of foreign takeovers of all or part of uranium companies in Canada before the takeover threat appears?

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, I was addressing myself yesterday to a particular