

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSE OF COMMONS****ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS AND REGULATIONS**

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council. In giving credit to the government for bringing in legislation dealing with the scrutiny of regulations and statutory instruments, I should like to ask whether it is the intention shortly to introduce a proposal making effective the committee's companion suggestion to set up a scrutiny committee of the House to examine regulations?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): This matter is alluded to in the bill mentioned by the hon. member and presumably we shall act on it further.

Mr. Baldwin: In view of the fact that the objectivity of such a committee might be enhanced if its chairman were not from the government side of the House, and in view of the obvious fondness of the government for governing by Order in Council, will the government consider appointing an opposition member as chairman of such a committee or, at least, recommending that an opposition member be appointed?

Mr. MacEachen: If it were possible to find an objective opposition member.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Wellington rising on a question of privilege?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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INDUSTRY**AUTOMOBILES—CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES PRICES**

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In this period of adjustment of the prices charged by car manufacturers for 1971 models, can he assure the House that Canadians will be able to buy Canadian made cars at the same prices as Americans buy these cars?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I would hope it would be a lower price, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: When is Christmas?

Mr. Hales: Is the minister assuring us by his answer that Canadians will be able to buy these Canadian made cars at the same prices as Americans?

Mr. Pepin: On a number of occasions, in answer to questions, I have spoken about the reduction of the gap which exists between American and Canadian manufacturers' prices. I have drawn attention to the fact that this

[Mr. Benson.]

gap was slowly decreasing. I also recall saying that expectations that it will disappear altogether are not in existence at the present time because, apparently, there are costs in Canada which are special to our situation here.

Mr. Speaker: We are running short of time; perhaps the Chair might recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, and then we could go on to another subject.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To go beyond the frivolity of the answers we have been getting from the minister for the past two years—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I mentioned a moment ago that we were running out of time. The hon. member has taken more than his share already.

Mr. Broadbent: I will come right to the point, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the House whether he has held discussions with the automobile industry within the last two months on this question?

Mr. Pepin: I would have to check before I could give the hon. member the date of the last occasion on which I met with representatives of the industry to see if it is a little more or a little less than two months. But it is well known that I meet with the industry regularly to discuss this and other matters.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL PARKS**POLICY RESPECTING PERPETUAL LEASES**

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

A month ago the minister promised to make a statement on motions regarding the policy on leases in national parks. He then asked for a 15-day delay. As we have been waiting for a month, could the minister tell us if he will make it this week?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I hope to make a statement on leases in national parks this week.

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[English]

NATIONAL REVENUE**INQUIRY AS TO CLOSING OF SYDNEY TAXATION OFFICE**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is for the Acting Minister of National Revenue; I hesitate to raise this type of question now, but I do so because there is an urgency attached to it which may not be obvious to Your Honour. Can the minister advise us whether his department plans to close the national revenue taxation office at Sydney?

Mr. Speaker: Obviously the hon. member can well understand that the urgency of the matter is not apparent to the Chair. However, the question having been asked, perhaps the minister might reply quickly.