

Inquiries of the Ministry

government and, if so (a) what were the amounts (b) what were the reasons for each such payment (c) to whom was each such payment made (d) for which departments were such payments made?

2. Who are the owners of the Seignory Club, Montebello, Quebec?

3. To the knowledge of the government, is the ownership a partnership or private corporation and, if so, who are the principals involved?

Return tabled.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

Mr. J. A. Jerome (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I ask that Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, while I agree that these motions should stand in this instance, may I refer to one standing in my name, No. 248, which I admit is not of very old vintage. It asks for the tabling of correspondence between the government of Canada and the government of the United States regarding the proposed nuclear device test at Amchitka Island. In view of the fact the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has said in the House that he intends to raise this question generally during the nuclear arms debate at the United Nations, and in view of the fact that the proposed nuclear device testing date is getting closer and closer, it might be desirable to have that motion put at the earliest possible moment and the correspondence tabled so that all Canada can see the nature of the communications between the government of Canada and the government of the United States.

Mr. Jerome: Mr. Speaker, I will take note of those remarks and look into the matter to see if something can be done soon.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**LABOUR CONDITIONS****GOVERNMENT ACTION TO AVOID LAY-OFFS BY GENERAL MOTORS**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether he can give the House some information following the discussions of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and officials of General Motors today. Can he tell the House whether, following these discussions, there is any measure the government is taking to avoid these lay-offs? Has the government satisfied itself that the proposed lay-offs are the result of a genuine problem of overproduction, or that there is some exportation of employment by this corporation in this case?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am not in a position to inform [Mr. Schumacher.]

the House on that matter. I understand the minister had a very important meeting this morning with officials of the company and that he unfortunately had a subsequent commitment at Lansdowne Park, I believe, with the forest products industries. He has had that obligation for some time. Because of the complexities of the discussion he had this morning he did not feel he could easily convey the results to somebody else to report to the House. It is because of this conflicting engagement that he could not be here at this time to report to the House, but I am sure his views and report on the meeting will be made known as soon as possible. I believe he has a press conference at 3.30.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, the minister seems to find it possible to meet the press but not the House.

Mr. Trudeau: Not at the same time.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**EFFECT OF UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES ON CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT—DIRECT REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question which I am sure relates to a matter within his own knowledge. Now that his colleague the Secretary of State for External Affairs has made a vigorous attempt to bring home to the people of the United States the serious consequences to this country of President Nixon's economic measures—I have in mind the possible effects of the surcharge and other United States measures on Canadian employment—I wonder whether unemployment has reached a point serious enough for the Prime Minister to intervene directly to bring this home to President Nixon?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the country may be aware of the speech made yesterday in New York by the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It was made publicly to an important audience and we have expectations that these representations will come to the knowledge of important United States officials.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, it has become clear that the government regards this as a matter of importance in view of the fact that an important minister of government has made such a speech. I should like to ask the Prime Minister how serious unemployment has to become in Canada before he will intervene directly and take up this matter with President Nixon?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the matter can be extremely serious and still be very well dealt with by ministers of this government and by officials. The opposition should realize once again that this is not a one-man government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: You can't sell that, Pierre.