

Oral Questions

suggestion on a matter of great concern to this government, and I will certainly follow it up in discussions with the ministers, as he suggests.

In the meantime I want to repeat to this House what I have said before, both inside and outside of Canada, that the green paper is not a policy paper. It is one meant for discussion. But in any and all events, the federal government is committed, and will remain committed, to a policy which is non-discriminatory as between races, ethnic origins, language groups, countries of origin or religions; and second, that it will continue to rely heavily on an immigration policy which lends emphasis to the necessity and desirability of reuniting families; and third, we will always keep in mind Canada's desire to make exceptions in the case of refugees.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT

ALLEGED STATEMENT BY PAUL MARTIN ACT NOT INTENDED AS BARRIER TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Was the Hon. Paul Martin, Canada's High Commissioner to Britain, stating government policy when he said in a speech to the Canadian-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce, as reported in this morning's press, that the Foreign Investment Review Act is not intended as a barrier to foreign investment in Canada and that, and I quote, "Canada today is one of the least restrictive of industrialized countries with respect to foreign investment"?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, obviously that is a statement of opinion by the High Commissioner. I am glad it came out so clearly and in such forthright language. It will put an end to the innuendos about Paul Martin.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

GOVERNMENT VIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ACT

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Once again the Prime Minister has demonstrated his ability to not answer questions. I will try a supplementary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that at latest count 55 foreign takeovers have been approved out of a total of 66 applications processed, a rate of approval which is running at almost 85 per cent, does the minister consider the act to be operating successfully and in a way which will reduce the domination of our economy by foreign, and particularly United States, corporations.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think the act is working very well, and if there were more interest on the part of the hon. member's party, he would be able to receive answers by putting questions to me when I appear before the standing committee. I have appeared before that

[Mr. Trudeau.]

standing committee on two previous occasions for two hours each time, and there has not been one question from his party.

Mr. Symes: The government is batting 200 here. Neither the Prime Minister nor the minister has answered the question. I will try once again and ask the minister, who is responsible for these questions in the House, with respect to the particular takeover on February 25 of this year by Pacific Petroleum of oil and gas properties owned by Wizard Oils Limited and two other Canadian firms, can the minister explain to the House why he considers it of significant benefit to Canada to increase the foreign control of Canada's petroleum industry beyond the level it has already reached, which is 99 per cent foreign-owned?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure the hon. member realizes that despite the minister's previous comment, the hon. member is not following that; this is precisely the kind of question that ought to be asked in the committee and not here in the House.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA—GOVERNMENT INTENTION WITH REGARD TO RECOGNITION OF NEW REGIMES

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government decided to extend diplomatic recognition to the new government in South Viet Nam?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, on my instructions, yesterday.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. MacEachen: The Department of External Affairs sent a telegram to the foreign ministry of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The telegram informed the foreign ministry that the government of Canada thereby recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as the sole legal government of South Viet Nam. The telegram also expressed the proposal of the Canadian government that discussions be entered into as soon as it is convenient to both sides with a view to establishing diplomatic relations.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question because this is very interesting. Has the government agreed to recognize the new government in Cambodia in light of events now taking place?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, that was done some time ago.