

accordance with equitable principles, was the Prime Minister aware of this statement and, if so, will he discuss this matter at Williamsburg with the United States President to make certain that the U.S. move does not pre-empt the International Court's decision at The Hague on the boundary issue as it applies to Georges Bank?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, first I should inform the Hon. Member and the House that the purpose of Williamsburg is not to have bilateral discussions with the U.S. President but to discuss the agenda which is before the Economic Summit, and particularly the importance of having a lasting economic recovery both in the industrialized countries and Third World countries. Therefore I do not propose to raise any specific bilaterals with President Reagan.

If I understood the quotation correctly, and I was not aware of it, there seems to be nothing wrong, in my opinion, with the President suggesting that the solution be found in terms of equitable principles. I believe that is what the reference to the court leads us to expect. We hope that the court will judge on equity and international law. That is our expectation, and nothing has changed.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS ISSUE WITH U.S.
PRESIDENT

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Madam Speaker, I thank the Right Hon. Prime Minister for his answer. I can appreciate that it may be difficult to discuss this matter at Williamsburg.

However, since Canada contends that the dividing line on Georges Bank should be equidistant between Canada and the United States, while the Americans claim the entire Georges Bank, will the Prime Minister undertake to hold discussions, when convenient, with the United States President, pointing out that their move to declare a 200 nautical mile coastal economic zone further complicates the boundary problem between our two countries and could establish precedents affecting other international boundary disputes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Madam Speaker, the declaration of the 200-mile economic zone by the United States is no different from our own declaration which was made a few years ago in terms acceptable to the Law of the Sea conference. That is another matter entirely. In my view I think the Hon. Member is a couple of years too late. We have negotiated this situation. Of course there is a difference of interpretation of where the boundary lies, whether it be in the trench or on an equidistant line.

That whole matter had been solved in bilateral negotiations with the United States. It was rejected by the U.S. Senate. Consequently, we have gone to the international court of arbitration. It is now before the court. There has been no move on the part of U.S. or Canada to withdraw it from the jurisdiction of the court, where it is by mutual consent.

Oral Questions

THE ADMINISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Can the Minister tell the House whether he has recently been made a member of the important Cabinet Committee on Economic Development?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): I am sorry, Madam Speaker, but I did not hear the first part of the Hon. Member's question.

[English]

Mr. Lewis: Could the Minister tell the House whether or not he is presently a Member of the strategic Cabinet committee on economic development?

[Translation]

Mr. Bussières: Madam Speaker, I think these questions should be put to the Government House Leader and not to individual Ministers.

[English]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER BE APPOINTED TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister or the President of the Privy Council. In view of the importance of the Canadian Development Investment Corporation to the country, in view of the fact that it seems to report through a member of the other place, and in view of the fact that the Minister of National Revenue has expounded at length on the strategic importance this company will be to the economy, does the Prime Minister or the Government feel that the Minister who does all the reporting should be a member of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Development?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, a list of Members of the various Cabinet Committees is tabled regularly in the House, and perhaps my learned colleague would like to read it. He will see for himself whether there have been any changes. Obviously, we will be announcing these changes in due time, but since the last election, we have made a habit of regularly tabling a list indicating the membership of our various Cabinet Committees.

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HOUSING

\$3,000 GRANT PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Madam Speaker, under Standing Order 21, I brought to the attention of the House the fact that