

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. David Lewis (York South): The Prime Minister knows very well that we have not suggested 4 per cent unemployment as representing full employment and he ought not to say so. In view of the resignation of two ministers in protest against the government's economic policies, is the government reassessing those policies, or does the resignation of the hon. member for Duvernay mean that the government is sticking by the policies it has pursued up to now?

An hon. Member: He is reassessing the cabinet.

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon. member wants to help us reconcile the remedies which the two members suggest for economic policy, perhaps I will accept his advice and help. But the hon. member knows that the resignations by the two ministers did not involve agreement on their part on economic policy.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT
POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): In view of some of the statements in the letter of resignation from the hon. member for Duvernay, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the cabinet has yet decided on its policies with regard to foreign ownership and with regard to the way in which the resource industries of Canada may be protected for the benefit of Canada, and when may we expect the statement which has been promised for so long on the issue of foreign ownership?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we hoped that we would get some enlightenment on this matter as a result of the New Democratic Party congress, but I can say with certainty that we are more advanced in our policy on foreign ownership than is the hon. member's party.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I had occasion to say once before that I am very much touched by the Prime Minister's humour, which at times is much more relevant than his statements of fact. May I ask the Prime Minister to answer the question when we may expect a statement on foreign ownership either from him or a member of the cabinet?

Mr. Trudeau: Sooner than we are going to get it from the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the Prime Minister has had three years on the job training, is he not now capable of making a few decisions on his own?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY

MINING—ASSISTANCE FOR EXPLORATION IN
NORTHERN QUEBEC

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

This week, the minister has announced the resumption of the assistance program to mining exploration and he has stated that an amount of \$2,000,000 would be allotted to it. Can the minister say whether a portion of this amount may be applied to mining exploration in New Quebec?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker. My announcement dealt with mining exploration in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Could the minister say whether the government considers the possibility of granting assistance to mining exploration in that vast area which is also a part of Canada?

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, we cannot do that, because natural resources within the provincial boundaries of Quebec come under the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

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[English]

OIL

PROPOSED TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM—MEETING
WITH UNITED STATES OFFICIALS—COMPLETION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister concerning the meeting on May 3 between United States and Canadian officials. Noting particularly the statement by the United States Secretary of the Interior that he believes that a final environmental study can be completed by mid-September, 1971, is it the opinion of the Canadian government and its officials that this very important environmental study can in fact be completed by that time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot answer. The Secretary of State for External Affairs dealt with this matter yesterday and I do not have the details of it.

Mr. Macquarrie: May I ask the Prime Minister, since this meeting is just a few days away, whether the Canadian government now has a point of view to present to the United States officials regarding the trans-Alaskan pipeline system?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I know that Mr. Sharp has made—

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Trudeau: I know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has made his position known in the House and elsewhere, as have other members of our caucus. But beyond that I am sure they will have serious talks in Washington and that the policy will be further elaborated.