

Inquiries of the Ministry

this country has been higher than predicted by the Economic Council.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the very complacent answer the Prime Minister has given, is the government prepared to accept the continuing high rate of unemployment at existing levels?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: When is the Prime Minister going to tell us what he will do about it, Mr. Speaker?

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—HIGHER CANADIAN PRICES—
SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND
COMPANY HEADS TO EFFECT REDUCTION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact North American automotive producers are making excess profits in Canada of about \$150 million as a result of charging Canadians on the average \$300 more for a car made in Canada than they do for the identical product in the United States, would the Prime Minister consider requesting that the heads of the North American auto companies in Canada meet with him next week with a view to effecting a meaningful reduction in prices to approximate or full parity with prices in the United States within a three-month period?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be very happy to draw this representation to the attention of the minister.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the fact the Prime Minister indicated that no action is viewed seriously in this direction by his government, would he consider announcing or having the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announce to the House within the next few days measures the government intends to take that would effectively reduce automotive prices and subsequently result in an increase in employment in that industry because the price of cars would then become closer to the price of foreign imports and thus lead to the creation of more jobs in this country? Does he intend to move in this direction at all?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question is false but as to the willingness of the minister to discuss this problem, he has constantly indicated to the House his willingness to do so.

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ELECTIONS

INQUIRY AS TO DATE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to the original question. When is the Prime Minister going to take the one major initiative which will eventually result in restoring confidence in this country?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Bellechasse.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

[English]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be prepared to call—

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Bellechasse.

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AGRICULTURE

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT INFORM HOG PRODUCERS
RESPECTING SHARING OF SUBSIDY WITH COMPANIES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.

In view of the announcement made yesterday by the Minister of Agriculture to the effect that some companies would want a share of the subsidy paid to pork producers, what steps does the department intend to take to advise producers so that this truly deplorable situation might be avoided?

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for putting the question. It gives us one more opportunity to advise farmers of the situation. The statement of the Minister of Agriculture having been made publicly, the newspapers will surely by now have reported it, so that I feel the pork producers of Canada and Quebec will be informed of the situation and will take steps accordingly.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): I should like to put a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Considering that some producers do not regularly read newspapers, has the Price Stabilization Board taken steps to advise producers, by sending a publication to them or to slaughterhouses?

Mr. Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice. I will check and inform the hon. member.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADIAN POSITION IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRANCE
RESPECTING CONTINENTAL SHELF—CONSULTATION
WITH NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. According to the text of a television interview released today, the Prime Minister referred to tough negotiations