

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member might want to repeat his question. It seems to ask for a specific point of information.

Mr. Huntington: I wish to ask the Minister of Finance if he can tell the House what the rate of dumping duty on wide-flange steel beams will be after June 29.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, we are looking into the problem, and we do not know as yet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: When I have a specific answer, I will be glad to inform the hon. member.

Mr. Huntington: In light of the fact that Algoma's production is at capacity, that shipments are allocated and that British Columbia fabricators cannot get their supplies within practical time limits, in addition to the fact that offshore steel is more expensive than Canadian-produced steels, will the Minister of Finance explain the need for dumping duty safeguards? I ask this question in view of the fact that the minister said the following as reported in *Hansard* of February 20, 1978:

● (1427)

B.C. producers will always have access to international steel as long as it is not dumped on the Canadian market.

On the same day he said:

If the steel is not dumped, there will be no special duty applied; it will be just the normal duty.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I repeat the same statement; we welcome steel coming from abroad as long as it is not steel dumped on the Canadian market.

Mr. Huntington: Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Why does he consider it bad economics to limit the safeguards for dumping on the market within Canada where safeguards are needed as a result of the threat or reality of injury, and leave other markets in Canada not facing the threat or reality of injury free of safeguards?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the producers in Canada expect to be able to produce for the entire Canadian market. If they are precluded from producing for a province because it has privileged access to some overseas market, then obviously the producers in Canada will not reach their optimum size.

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GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

POLITICAL CLEARANCE BEFORE MAJOR CONTRACTS AWARDED

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the right hon. Prime Minister. Last week I read from the 1975 minutes of a meeting attended by the then minister of state for urban affairs and the then

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chairman of the National Capital Commission. The minutes read as follows:

The minister wants to make sure that firms chosen for major contracts of this sort are cleared politically with the ministers responsible through his office.

At the time, the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council stated that he did not see anything wrong with that statement. Does the Prime Minister see anything wrong or abnormal with that statement? Is it the practice of his government to make sure that individual firms are cleared politically before major contracts are awarded? I want to emphasize that I am not talking about joint projects, but firms and contracts being cleared politically.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I heard the Minister of National Defence answer that very question at great length last week.

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URBAN AFFAIRS

CLEARANCE OF SEWER AND ROAD CONTRACTS FOR HULL, QUEBEC

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister declines to answer my question, I ask the Minister of State for Urban Affairs if he can state straightforwardly who in general cleared the firms and contracts for the sewer and road network in Hull, which contracts are still continuing?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not too sure what the hon. member is talking about.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I heard that it was Gus MacFarlane.

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IMMIGRATION

ESTIMATE OF REFUGEES ALLOWED INTO CANADA THIS YEAR

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In statements attributed to the minister last weekend, he indicated that Canada, upon the request of the United Nations commissioner on refugee matters, would be prepared to take additional refugees. Can he tell the House how many refugees he expects to land in 1978, notwithstanding that he will have to make that statement in November of this year when he gives the annual global flow? In his talks with United Nations officials, was there any discussion as to whether the definition of refugees should be expanded or modified?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, given the situation in Southeast Asia, first of all, Canada responded to the small boat refugees and agreed