

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LETTER FROM PREMIER
BOURASSA CONCERNING DETERMINATION OF PAYMENT
LEVELS BY PROVINCE

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister if he would consider tabling the letter that this government received from Premier Bourassa, assuming of course that Premier Bourassa is willing for this to be done?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have no objection at all. I will communicate with Mr. Bourassa's office and if he is in agreement we will table the letter. He may by then have made it public himself, but I will certainly follow up that suggestion.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

PROVISION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FOR
SELF-EMPLOYED AND AUTOMATIC COST OF LIVING
ESCALATOR IN FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): In view of the fact that the government seems to be moving into the area of humanitarianism, as leaked by the Prime Minister the other day, is the government now going to bring in legislation to provide unemployment insurance for the self-employed and to provide for automatic cost of living escalators in federal social security programs?

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT IN LIGHT OF UNITED STATES
ECONOMIC MEASURES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): In view of the concern that has been registered by people in Canada, particularly with regard to the United States DISC program and the 10 per cent surcharge, is the Prime Minister going to make a realistic statement concerning the state of the economy with special emphasis on the target for employment this year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will consider that very helpful suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

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CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

PRESENTATION OF AMENDMENTS THIS SESSION IN
LIGHT OF COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the government House leader. In view of the fact that the report of the Special Committee on Election Expenses was tabled in the House on June 4, is legislation now being prepared by the government to amend sections 62 and 63 of the Canada Elections Act and is the government going to bring in new legislation pertaining to election expenses this session?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would like to give some consideration to the question.

Mr. Benjamin: In view of the fact that the Prime Minister is on the record as favouring control of election expenses, limitation of election expenses and reimbursement for election expenses from the federal treasury, would he give the assurance that legislation will be brought before the House to complete the amendment of the Canada Elections Act in time for and prior to the next federal election?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): When the House leader is giving consideration to that question I will join him, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the House leader. Would he consult with the other House leaders to see whether arrangements could be made to shorten the period of debate so that this important legislation on election expenses might be passed before the next election takes place?

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's supplementary question is in the form of a suggestion to the minister.

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FINANCE

PROPOSED INCREASE IN VALUE OF GOLD TO FORCE
DEVALUATION OF U.S. DOLLAR—CANADIAN POSITION
AT GROUP OF TEN MEETING

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is to the Prime Minister. In light of the announcement today by the Common Market countries that they propose to increase the value of gold in an attempt to force a devaluation of the United States dollar, would the Prime Minister advise the House whether any instructions have been given to the Minister of Finance to act as a mediator between the two contending parties? Also, what is the attitude of Canada at this meeting of the Group of Ten that is to take place tomorrow in regard to this whole monetary question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am sure the Minister of Finance will attempt to report to the House on the point of view that he took when he returns from Europe next week.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Is the Prime Minister giving us to understand that the Minister of Finance has a free hand, that he can solo in this effort, or has he received any instructions from the government as to Canada's attitude in regard to the effect on the Canadian currency of a forced devaluation of the U.S. dollar?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member will have to wait and see, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question to that of the hon. member for Edmonton West with regard to instructions to