

ductive uranium deposits. Such enterprises will be given a certain period of time within which to establish the commercially productive capacity of their properties in order to qualify for the exemption from the ceilings which will be available to present foreign owners of existing mines—

That was the exact situation we had in mind in that exemption.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I thank the minister for that, and I then ask him what period of time will be given? What is the anticipated time? I am sure that uncertainty is not desirable on the part of the government in this regard. How many months or how many years?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, there is no specific time decided upon, in order to give the Atomic Energy Control Board some flexibility in this regard. This is one of the areas of regulation to which I referred earlier and the regulations will be made in the near future, but certainly the Atomic Energy Control Board which will administer these regulations generally, according to our present thinking, will be happy to discuss the situation with any particular developer to assure that there will be no prejudice to such developer by reason of any retroactive effect of these rules.

Mr. Saltsman: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we should go on to another subject, but if the House will agree the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Waterloo and the hon. member for Algoma for a supplementary question, and then go on to the next questioner.

Mr. Saltsman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the cryptic nature of the minister's statement last night and the importance of that statement, will the minister seek time today to explain the government's reasons for bringing these regulations into force?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I think that both the Prime Minister and other government spokesmen in this area have made manifest the reasons for the fact that a decision had to be made very quickly on this matter. A sale was pending of Canada's greatest uranium resource containing something like 50 per cent of proven reserves. That is the reason we had to act very quickly in the Canadian interest, and I think that is quite well known to the Canadian public.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: in view of the statement this

Inquiries of the Ministry

morning by Mr. Roman that he is going ahead with his sale to American interests, does the minister expect to introduce emergency legislation on this matter? As the second part of my question, can the minister assure the industry that the Canadian stockpile will not be put on the general market until some time later, perhaps after 1975 when the general market has improved?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, in respect of the sale of the stockpile, there is no government decision as to when to sell, but certainly the experience to date has been that we do not interfere unfairly with the market by dumping the stockpile at a time when this would hurt the natural market. With regard to what we would do in the eventuality of a sale which contradicts the decision of the government, then of course we will take any action that is necessary to assure that these rules are carried out.

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the fact that we received every day calls for help from officials of the textile industry, several of the plants being about to close down, would the minister tell the House what action is contemplated to assist them?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am exerting an all-out effort, Mr. Speaker, to develop a textile policy, and I am to start this afternoon on a series of meetings with those concerned.

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE—EFFECT OF PROPOSED CONSUMER CREDIT CURBS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Finance a question. I sought some information on this subject yesterday without success when he was not in the House so I would like to obtain the information today. In light of the most recent unemployment figures and in view of the fact that the minister has already recognized that his consumer credit proposals