

Inquiries of the Ministry

do everything possible to see that Canadians who are released find alternative employment or are offered retraining facilities and whatever additional help can be provided.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

**INFLATION—EFFECT OF AUSTERITY MEASURES
—ADVICE FROM BANK OF CANADA
GOVERNOR**

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister a question. In view of the fact that Mr. Roberts of the United States Federal Reserve has warned that the kind of austerity measures being implemented by the United States and Canada could trigger a serious recession and further unemployment, has the federal government received similar advice from the governor of the Bank of Canada, Mr. Rasminsky?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The advice received from the governor of the Bank of Canada is, of course, confidential unless it is published by him.

Mr. Woolliams: Is there an agreement between the Canadian and United States governments with regard to these austerity measures which are now bringing about regional and national unemployment in Canada?

Mr. Sharp: Obviously there can be no agreement that our fiscal, monetary or other policies should be the same.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**INVITATION TO HOLD COMMONWEALTH PRIME
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA**

Mr. Rod Thomson (Battleford-Kindersley): My question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Is the Canadian government extending an invitation to members of the Commonwealth to hold the forthcoming Prime Ministers' Conference in Ottawa?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I am happy this question has been asked, because there have been some misleading reports in the papers that Canada is reluctant to have the meeting in Ottawa. This is not so. We would be prepared to fall in with the consensus among the heads of government as to the location of the meeting. If it is to be in Ottawa, we would welcome it. We have taken part in some discussions, of course, about the timing; we would prefer that it be at a time when the weather is agreeable, and we would prefer 1971.

[Mr. Sharp.]

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Having regard to the accusation, perhaps false, that Canada's foreign policy is orientated toward a continental approach, would the Acting Prime Minister tell us whether Canada intends to actually invite the Prime Ministers of this multinational commonwealth to meet in Canada?

Mr. Sharp: There seems to be a fair interest in coming to Ottawa; I think it is sufficient for us to say they would be welcome here. We would welcome the Commonwealth Prime Ministers, as I am sure we should all do, if they care to come here. They know they are welcome. A special invitation is not necessary.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): The minister speaks in fulsome terms about welcoming the Prime Ministers Conference. Did not the government of Canada in 1969 refuse the opportunity to have the Prime Ministers Conference here?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

**INVITATION TO PRESIDENT OF FRANCE TO
VISIT OTTAWA**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs; it is related to the same theme of reconciliation. In view of the fact that the President of France is visiting the President of the United States next week, has Canada extended an invitation to President Pompidou to come to Ottawa either before or after his visit to Washington?

Mr. Speaker: I have the impression that this question has been asked before. However, the Acting Prime Minister might wish to reply.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the question put by the right hon. member for Prince Albert was out of order but I just want to deny the validity of the statement he made.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The denial is not in accordance with the truth.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps that is a matter for debate. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway.

Mr. Fairweather: What about the President of France?