

the government since the survey took place has no doubt returned confidence to the economy, which invalidates these figures.

Mr. McGrath: In light of the uncertainties in this matter and the report by the Economic Council of Canada, can the Prime Minister make a statement to the House or can he assure the House that a statement will be made regarding government policies with respect to the DISC program and foreign investment? I ask this question now especially in light of the latest Gray leak.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not see the relationship between this and the leak to which the hon. member refers. I just repeat that when the hon. member reads the document, as he must have done to ask this question unless it was prepared by his research staff, he should read the whole document. The document cautions that the figures must not be extrapolated to today because of the uncertainty which existed then, and he should be able to draw the conclusion which I indicated rather than asking spurious questions.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: May I ask a more specific question, Mr. Speaker. What is the government doing about the substantial decline in investment in the Atlantic provinces which is already hurting a crippled economy?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that what we have done to dispel the uncertainty which existed at the time of this survey was (a) to make the announcement we did on expenditures on October 14 and (b) successfully conclude the agreement on international monetary matters.

Mr. Baldwin: Why don't you try quitting? That would help.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCES
ON CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR SCREENING AGENCY—ALLEGED EDITING OF BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I should like to address a question or questions, to the Prime Minister arising out of a report in the *Toronto Star*. I want to ask him whether there has been consultation with the provinces with regard to the criteria and procedures which are to govern the screening agency? I appreciate that the Prime Minister suggested there has been consultation on the general subject, although he has not told us exactly what kind of consultation. Has there been consultation in particular on the particulars of the criteria and procedures of the proposed screening agency and, if not, is such consultation being arranged?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe I did tell the House yesterday what type of consultation we had. It was at the federal-provincial conference of first ministers which took place last fall. We told the provinces that we were in the process of formulating policy on this subject and we wanted to

Inquiries of the Ministry

know what remarks they had to make. As to the second part of the question, whether we submitted to them any precise criteria either at that time or since then, the answer is no.

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Prime Minister whether these criteria and procedures have already been arrived at by the government, particularly in light of the fact that he made a number of undertakings to make a statement on the policy in this area? When he made those undertakings had not the criteria and the procedures already been decided, or are they still under discussion?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, those criteria were under discussion at the time I made my first announcements. We had at that time planned to bring the discussion and decision on those criteria to a head much earlier than we have in fact done. I might add that in some degree we perhaps put more time into the preparation of the background document than we would have had to, had there not been this leak in the *Canadian Forum*. In that sense, those who think they are going to urge the government to more speedy action by this or that type of leak are really achieving the contrary result.

An hon. Member: Little spoiled boy!

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Prime Minister another question and suggest that threats of the kind he has made do not increase his standing in the country nor his value as Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, Oh!

Mr. Lewis: I want to ask the Prime Minister whether the editing of the document which is now supposed to be taking place is merely a matter of editing in the sense of correcting grammar, syntax and the rest, and can he assure the House that the document is not being expurgated or changed in any substance before the people of Canada see it?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not see why the hon. member talks about threats unless he feels threatened from some point. I assure him that there was no threat contained in my previous statement.

Mr. Lewis: May I rephrase the question to the Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member may rephrase the question and then I will recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue after the supplementary.

Mr. Lewis: May I rephrase my question since the Prime Minister chose to ignore it. Will he assure the House that the supporting document is not being changed or expurgated in any substance before it is tabled for Members of Parliament and the people of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring, as the supporting document, to the document published in the *Canadian Forum*, I can only answer that that is of no concern to the government. The docu-