

*Inquiries of the Ministry***TRADE****UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—MEASURES TO COUNTER EFFECTS**

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As it is more than three months since President Nixon signed the DISC act in the United States and in view of the fact that this legislation is expected to increase United States exports by \$1 billion annually, mainly at the expense of Canadian producers, has the government yet prepared measures to counter the effects of DISC?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The hon. member was slightly wrong the other day when he raised this issue as a question of privilege and asserted I had misled the House, or something to that effect. What has appeared in the United States is a handbook, a guide to understanding of the DISC program.

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Pepin: I am coming to it. The main regulations in connection with the DISC program are not out yet; consequently it is very difficult to know how much the program will affect us. As I said the other day to the Leader of the Opposition, if the hon. member has some information to give us we shall be delighted to receive it. All the figures he has quoted this morning are guesstimates and not at all—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like the hon. minister to resume his seat. In my opinion, he is engaging a debate with the hon. member.

[*English*]

The hon. member may ask a supplementary.

Mr. Broadbent: I would be glad to pass to the minister a copy of the *New York Times* of December 10 in which the details are given. Since the DISC legislation is in flat contradiction of both the spirit and the letter of the Canada-United States automotive agreement, has the Canadian government informed Washington that the pact has been violated?

Mr. Pepin: There is no disagreement between us. We agree that DISC is a very bad piece of legislation. It violates GATT. It violates the auto pact agreement. But I understand the automobile manufacturers in the United States have no intention of using it. So before making threats, before committing ourselves to legislation counteracting DISC, it would be wise to know what effect it will have, and it is too early in the game to know that.

Mr. Broadbent: A further supplementary.—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This exchange is really developing into a debate, but the hon. member may ask a last supplementary.

Mr. Broadbent: Thank you. I understood the minister to say that the auto manufacturers have agreed not to use

[*Mr. Speaker.*]

the DISC legislation. Can he advise the House whether the parts industry, which affects over 100 communities in Ontario alone, has given assurances to the government that it does not intend to use the DISC legislation?

Mr. Pepin: No assurances have been given, but I repeat that efforts are being made to collect as much information as possible on this subject. The Americans themselves do not know with any precision. I understand that very few companies have used the handbook, the guide; very few have filed applications. I repeat, it is too early to judge. We shall be delighted to receive estimates or forecasts by any knowledgeable people, including the hon. member, but before making moves to counter possible effects we have got to know more.

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[*Translation*]

AGRICULTURE**PAYMENT OF PREMIUM TO PRODUCERS OF NON-CLASSIFIED HOGS**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. Minister of Agriculture and his parliamentary secretary, may I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister?

Can the Prime Minister indicate to whom the Department of Agriculture will pay subsidies for live hogs that were auctioned by farmers and for which the farmers have no classification certificates?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am pleased to take the question as notice, Mr. Speaker.

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[*English*]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**FOREIGN INVESTMENT—SUGGESTED UNWILLINGNESS OF UNITED STATES TO RESUME AUTO PACT DISCUSSIONS UNTIL POLICY ANNOUNCED**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As reports coming out of Washington clearly indicate that the United States government is not willing to proceed with discussions on the auto pact until the Canadian government makes known its policy on foreign investment in Canada, can the minister advise the House when this policy will be announced and when the discussions will be able to proceed?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the connection between the discussions on the automobile agreement and the statement of policy on foreign investment is one with which I am not familiar. I do not think that any such connection exists. Certainly the United States negotiations have never raised it in any discussions we have had with them. Personally, I would welcome a statement on foreign investment as early as possible because I think it would be helpful. I do not see why my hon. friend makes a relation between the two; certainly he has no grounds for doing so.