

*Oral Questions***AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE**

CONSULTATIONS WITH QUEBEC AND SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE ON QUEBEC SCHEME

Mrs. Jean E. Pigott (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. There are press reports concerning the new Quebec auto insurance scheme that became effective March 1, 1978. My understanding is that there is now a combined public and private insurance coverage which provides minimum protection for Quebec residents anywhere in the world, but there is no reciprocal arrangement for other Canadians or American visitors to Quebec.

As this discriminatory jurisdiction currently affects thousands of Ontario workers who are working in Quebec, and our American visitors, many of whom have had no warning about it, can the Prime Minister tell the House if there have been consultations with the Superintendent of Insurance, and are there active negotiations going on with Quebec officials on this very serious situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to take notice of the question. I know of no consultations having taken place, at least at the federal level. I suppose that in so far as the matter affects residents of Ontario, it would be good for the two provinces to discuss this matter since it is an area of provincial jurisdiction.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

LEGISLATION COVERING GUIDELINES

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the consensus that appears to have developed that Mr. Donald Macdonald, former minister of finance, breached even the guidelines of the Prime Minister with regard to his appointment to the board of directors of McDonnell-Douglas, and the Prime Minister acknowledges that the guidelines have no effect in law and no sanctions attached to them, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to bring forward legislation respecting conflict of interest guidelines for cabinet and former cabinet members which could be studied by this House at an early date?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member talks about consensus. I doubt whether consensus could even develop in his own party on such a simple matter as that. I can tell him that as far as we are concerned, the guidelines were tabled in this House 2½ years ago. They were made public after having been sent to the ministers. From my examination of the guidelines, they have not been breached by the former minister of finance. If the hon. member can indicate some aspect of them which in his view has been breached, I will be happy to hear his information.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It was contained in my speech of yesterday evening. The Prime Minister has been invited by McDonnell-Douglas to go to their plant in Malton on June 24 and 25. If

[Mr. Trudeau.]

he goes to McDonnell-Douglas, is he planning to visit the plants of their competitors for the \$2.3 billion contract which is now being considered by the Government of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must have some inside information. He probably has friends in McDonnell-Douglas, because I know not of this invitation. I will take the hon. member's question as a representation on behalf of McDonnell-Douglas, Mr. Speaker.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO RCMP ACCESS TO TAX FILES

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister: it arises from an issue raised yesterday at his press conference about which he may be better briefed today. I refer to the correspondence of approximately two years ago between the then minister of national revenue, now Minister of Employment and Immigration, and the then solicitor general, now Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It relates, as the Prime Minister will know, to the 1972 agreement which permitted access by law enforcement officers to confidential income tax information. The nature of the correspondence indicated that the then minister of national revenue was very concerned about the legality of the agreement and the abuse under which it might have been implemented.

Can the Prime Minister tell us whether it is the position of the government that this correspondence is protected by the doctrine of cabinet secrecy or privilege or, in the alternative, are negotiations now under way among counsel for the various ministers appearing before the McDonald commission and counsel for the commission to permit the commission to examine that correspondence?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member refers to questions asked at a press conference yesterday, to which I was unable to give accurate answers because this whole matter surfaced when I was in New York and Washington a couple of weeks ago. However, since then I have informed myself and my understanding is that the whole of the correspondence is before the McDonald commission. It is in the possession of the McDonald commission. It has not yet been tabled, but the intention of the minister is to appear before the McDonald commission whenever he is asked to appear and to answer questions on this matter. I believe the further questions asked by the hon. member would have to be asked at that time.

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Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Prime Minister can inform us whether it is the position of counsel representing the various ministers before that commission that that correspondence will be tabled at an in-camera session. Is that now the negotiating position of the lawyers for the ministers, or is