

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

of all, that he has no friends but his supporters, and in the second place as I know he was opposed to my appointing supporters, I refrained from doing so.

**Mr. Rondeau:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Further to his reply, can the minister assure us that the names appearing on the list are really those of commissioners, and that he has not inadvertently submitted the list of members of the Liberal association of my riding?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. As phrased, the question is hardly in order.

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[English]

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**

MARITIME PROVINCES—CHANGING OF FINANCIAL POLICIES IN KEEPING WITH ATLANTIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. It concerns a report just released an hour ago in Halifax by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion containing the recommendations of the Atlantic Development Council, a government agency. Is the government now prepared to change its monetary, fiscal and tariff policies in keeping with the recommendations of the council to foster and generate economic growth in the Atlantic area?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer the question directly beyond saying that we have had policies that are precisely designed to foster economic growth in those areas and which in fact have had that effect.

**Mr. McGrath:** A supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Has the government received the report, has it been considered in cabinet, and will the Prime Minister table the report which was released to the press in Halifax just an hour ago by one of his ministers so that members of the House will have the same privilege that the press have at the present time?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Fundy-Royal on a supplementary.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister wanted to answer my question. I wish he would do so.

**Mr. Speaker:** There seems to be some reluctance. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Fundy-Royal on a supplementary.

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in relation to the statement. What steps is the government taking to lower trade barriers so that an increase in trade can take place between the Atlantic provinces and the New England states, as forecast in a speech by the Prime Minister in Saint John last December and as taken seriously by the

[Mr. Pepin.]

Atlantic Development Council and, incidentally, by M.P.'s from the Maritimes?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, we do not lower tariffs on a regional basis. Second, it is very doubtful whether the United States government would have the power to negotiate such tariff reductions at this time.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, may I redirect my question, which the Prime Minister refused to answer, to the now occupied President of the Privy Council. May I ask the government House leader whether the government has received the report of the Atlantic Development Council released just an hour ago to the press by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and is the minister prepared to table the report so that Members of Parliament will have a chance to study it?

**Mr. Speaker:** My understanding is that this is a matter that does not come under the administrative responsibility of the minister. I believe the hon. member's question was properly directed in the first instance when it was asked of the Prime Minister.

**Mr. McGrath:** Then may I redirect my question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. May I say, with great respect, that this report was released in the city of Halifax by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, and all I am asking is that the Prime Minister table the report so that Members of Parliament may have a chance to look at it.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that this is a report that was directed by an advisory council to the minister just in the last few days. I have not yet seen a copy of the report, but I would invite the hon. member to table his copy and perhaps the House can then study it.

**Mr. McGrath:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to comply with the wish of the Prime Minister and I table a copy of the report forthwith.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that even the right hon. Prime Minister cannot change the rules.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member knows that he cannot table a document. According to our rules this is not in order. The hon. member may bring the document to the attention of other hon. members, but there is no provision under our Standing Orders for a member of the House to table a document in the way which is now being attempted by the hon. member for St. John's East.

**Mr. McGrath:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I then ask for the unanimous consent of the House to revert to motions so that I can table this report under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2)?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed!