

Inquiries of the Ministry

government which initiated discussion of the possible abandonment of the auto pact safeguards as a *quid pro quo* or as one concession in order to get exemption from the American surcharge legislation, could the Prime Minister inform the House if in fact this was the case? Was this a proposal put forward by the Canadian government?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, there was never any question of a *quid pro quo* on this subject, and I do not know from where the hon. member is inventing that.

POSSIBLE MODIFICATION OF UNITED STATES-CANADA
AUTO PACT—REQUEST BY UNITED AUTOMOBILE
WORKERS FOR MEETING WITH CABINET

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce I want to ask the Prime Minister another question. It is my understanding that the Canadian director of the United Automobile Workers has already sent a telegram, or will be shortly, requesting an early meeting with senior cabinet officials on this issue. Would the Prime Minister assure the House that such a meeting will take place when and if it is requested?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course I cannot give an assurance without conferring with the minister, but if it is a reasonable request for a reasonable meeting I am sure he would want to meet it. This government, since it brought in the auto pact, has always been saying that it was one of the very good achievements of the Liberal government. I am very happy to see now that the parties which did not applaud the pact at the time of its introduction are very enthusiastic in saying that we should preserve it.

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—POLICY TO
PROTECT CANADA AGAINST BEING ABLE TO EXPORT
ONLY NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In light of increasing American action generally discriminating against the Canadian manufacturing industry and the fear indicated by the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister last week that we will be placed in a position of being able to export only our natural resources, would the Prime Minister indicate whether he and his cabinet officials are presently developing an over-all, integrated resource and manufacturing export policy to protect us against being placed in a position of only being able to export our natural resources and not our manufactured products?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I made it clear to the House in the very first days of this part of the session that the government was in fact looking at contingency measures to be brought in and announced if ever we felt this was necessary, but that at this stage of the game we were mainly making sure that the Americans understood what effect their policies had on Canada, what choices they were putting in front of us, and that we were making representations to them in every way. In fact, even within the last two hours I met with the NATO delegates from the United States, as other mem-

bers and ministers have previously, to impress upon them the situation as it has developed as a result of the Nixon measures.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Can the Prime Minister indicate to the House whether he feels that the administration in the United States either understands or cares about the jeopardy of Canadian manufacturing interests at the present time?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I can answer without hesitation, as a result of the discussions I had with several United States senators and representatives a few hours ago, that their understanding had improved considerably as a result of representations made by this side of the House to them during the past few days.

• (2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South. Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for York South but the hon. member for Egmont is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for answering a question which I did not ask. I should like him to answer now the question I did ask with regard to the American administration, which is not the same thing as these representatives who are here at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for York South.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. The hon. member claims that the Prime Minister did not answer his question. That is not a point of order. I will return to the hon. member and to others who want to ask supplementaries on this subject in a moment.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS TO DISCUSS
WINTER WORKS PROGRAMS—REPLY TO TELEGRAM
FROM PREMIER SCHREYER

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister inform the House whether he has seen a wire sent to him by the Premier of Manitoba urging an early meeting of first ministers—I think the dates suggested are between October 22 and October 28—for the purpose of discussing possible programs to deal with the unacceptable levels of unemployment expected this winter? If so, could the Prime Minister tell us what reply he made to the wire?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, could I ask the hon. member to tell me if he is referring to a wire or a letter, because I did receive a letter? Could I ask the hon. member to clarify that?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, if I may answer, the Prime Minister received a letter and was also sent a telegram on