

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ENERGY****DELAY IN RESUMING DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question relating to the message which has gone from the government of Canada to Washington with regard to the energy negotiations. Was this message sent to the United States in the context of a definite date having been set for the resumption of these discussions? Did this message involve a postponement from a particular date set for the meeting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. There has been no message in the sense in which the Leader of the Opposition implies. There have been conversations. I can only repeat what I said a few minutes ago, that the talks were adjourned last spring to be resumed again in the fall and we have not yet set a date.

Mr. Stanfield: When the message referred to by the Canadian embassy spokesman was delivered to Washington, was it in response to a request by the United States officials or authorities for a specific date to resume these discussions relating to energy?

Mr. Trudeau: I rather think so. I would have to verify it. But I think the position is that the United States asked us when we were going to resume the discussions which had been postponed last spring and we said we had not had time to put our minds to it and therefore could not set any specific date right now.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING CRACKDOWN—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT TO CABINET**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister arising out of the speech made in Houston, Texas, by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in which he assured his audience that the Canadian cabinet were now studying the report on foreign ownership prepared by the Minister of National Revenue and that when a final decision was made they could be sure there would be no crackdown on foreign ownership. I want to ask the Prime Minister whether this represents the view of the government, whether any final decision has been made and if it is true that the new policy will not reflect any significant measures to lessen the growing control of the Canadian economy by foreign investors?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, the NDP member talks of a crackdown and then interprets it to mean a significant change. If that is what he means by "crackdown", then I am sure even his party wants to crack down on United States foreign ownership. But that is not what the minister said. To say there is not going to be a crackdown, with which I am sure we all agree, is not to say there will not be some measures taken

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

to ensure greater Canadian control of our domestic and economic environment.

Mr. Douglas: In order that members of the House and the country generally may be able to assess the government's policy on foreign ownership when it is brought down, may I ask the Prime Minister if he would be prepared to make public now or at a later date the entire report submitted to the cabinet by the Minister of National Revenue on foreign ownership?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is talking about a cabinet document, the answer is obviously no. We will not make that public. We never make cabinet documents public.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**SUGGESTED REDUCTION IN PRIVY COUNCIL AND PRIME MINISTER'S STAFFS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In light of rising unemployment in Canada brought about by fear and frustration among Canadian industrialists over tax reform, the new competition bill and the Canada Development Corporation, which is—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now making a speech. He should ask a question.

Mr. Crouse: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These events are causing massive lay-offs and my question to the Prime Minister is whether it is his intention to do some belt tightening to match the lay-offs in industry by laying off some of the excess staff in the Privy Council office and in the Prime Minister's office which has increased by one-third to 288 members in the past year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**CLOSING OF ACADIA FISHERIES PLANTS AT CANSO AND MULGRAVE, N.S.—MEASURES TO ASSIST UNEMPLOYED**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. On September 22 I posed a question to the minister with reference to closure of fish processing plants at Canso and Mulgrave placing 800 workers on the unemployment rolls and asked what steps were being taken by his department to alleviate this serious problem. The minister at that time stated that had he had one hour's notice he would have been in a position to make a full report, to use his own words, and added that he would do so the next day, September 23. As it is now 12 days since he had notice of the question, is the minister now in a position to give us some information on this subject?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the government of Nova Scotia