

Inquiries of the Ministry

ments and Indians should get together as soon as possible. I was told this morning that the Quebec government will meet the Indian chiefs in the next few weeks and I am being informed daily of developments.

Mr. Laprise: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER TO UNITED STATES PRESIDENT RESPECTING IMPORT SURTAX**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary in a roundabout way to the question posed by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock. It refers to the Prime Minister's policy of direct representation to leaders of other governments or heads of state. Does the Prime Minister believe there is any useful purpose that can be achieved in direct representation to other heads of government in the Amchitka incident, and has the Prime Minister made any direct representation to the President of the United States in respect of the 10 per cent surcharge and, if so, what was it?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the final part of the question the answer is no. I have made no personal representation, but the rest of my answer is substantially the same. I have reason to believe the United States, including the President, knows very well the Canadian position. In respect of the question asked by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock it is my understanding also that the President has not given his final approval for the test yet.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. In view of the Prime Minister's answer, can the House and the country assume that he will wait until the springtime meeting with the President in Ottawa to discuss retroactively after the event both the surtax and the Amchitka incident?

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[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**DISLOCATION OF NATIVE PEOPLE BY PROPOSED JAMES BAY POWER PROJECT—DISCUSSION WITH QUEBEC**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Abitibi would like to ask a supplementary to his previous question.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development if the federal government has made indemnity offers to Indians in that region?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we have not yet reached that stage. We are holding discussions with the provincial government and they wish to meet the Indians. Once the situation has been straightened out we will be

[Mr. Chrétien.]

able to make the necessary recommendations to Parliament.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to hon. members that we will need to limit our supplementaries. We are coming very soon to the end of the question period. I will recognize the hon. member for Winnipeg North and try to move on as quickly as possible after that supplementary.

DISLOCATION OF NATIVE PEOPLE BY PROPOSED JAMES BAY POWER PROJECT—PROVISION OF EXPERT ASSISTANCE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development whether his department is prepared to help the Indians affected by the proposed James Bay development by providing them with the kind of technical know-how and expertise they need in order that they may proceed on a fairly equal basis in respect of the whole problem with the government of Quebec?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, we intend by all possible means to help Indians follow up these negotiations and I should add that a committee now exists which includes government representatives at both the federal and provincial levels as well as Indian representatives. This committee sits regularly and it is our intention to use this machinery to help the Indians.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BILL**

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, if I may I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Either in deliberations with the various segments of the economy or in making representations on the surcharge were the various segments of agriculture which are not exempt under the surcharge and also small businesses either heard or invited to be heard, and would the minister indicate whether or not he will now or in the progress of his speech inform the House whether these two segments would qualify for benefits under the proposed bill?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In receiving delegations, three or four ministers have really divided the work among themselves. The Minister of Agriculture received representations from the group with which he is more closely associated than I am. So did the Minister of Labour. But the food branch of my department is in close contact with the food associations and processors and has also received information and representations from them. I think there was another aspect of the question which I am not answering now.