Inquiries of the Ministry

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL REPORT TO CABINET AND OTHER STUDIES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I think the Prime Minister is still suffering from some confusion. Would he indicate whether he is willing to make available the reports and the various supporting studies that have been made in connection with the Gray inquiry prior to the enunciation of the government's position in order that there might be some public participation in the consideration of these various documents before a final decision is arrived at by the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I replied to that type of question the other day I said it was mainly a matter of preparing material, having it printed, translated and so on. That was the reason I could not give a specific date. Let me repeat that I will urge the minister to do so as soon as possible in order that the Conservative party may clarify its thinking on this matter.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister whether, in view of the interest he has expressed about the views of the Conservative party, he will accept its advice a little more quickly than he did in respect of unemployment?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands on a supplementary question.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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FORTHCOMING MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER AND U.S. PRESIDENT—SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the press has quoted a spokesman from the Prime Minister's office as saying that the Prime Minister and the President had agreed on the desirability of holding a meeting for the purpose of discussing the surcharge, related economic matters and international relations, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he is telling the House that a spokesman from his office was not authorized to make such a statement and whether, indeed, these are the three main subjects for discussion by the Prime Minister with the President?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudecu (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I know the agenda has not been agreed upon by the President and myself. I am not aware of what my office may have said in respect of possible subjects for discussion. As I answered the leader of the New Democratic Party, this is the type of thing we are likely to discuss but there is no agenda set yet.

[Mr. Speaker.]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

IMPLICATIONS OF TELEGRAM FROM PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In light of the statement by the Minister of Indian Affairs and northern Development to the effect that he was not aware of the telegram sent by the Prime Minister's principal secretary to the President of the Indian Association of Alberta, will he advise the House whether he is aware of the contents of this telegram and, if so, does it reflect his position on this matter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudecu (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I know of the existence of the telegram, but I would have to refresh my memory as to its content in order to answer the hon. member's second question.

Mr. Mazankowski: Are we then to assume that the powers of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development have been usurped by the Prime Minister's office?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker, but-

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is entirely out of order.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

GRANT TO UNION CARBIDE, BEAUHARNOIS—LOSS OF JOBS AT WELLAND

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has his department made a grant to Union Carbide of Canada to build a manganese alloy furnace at Beauharnois, Quebec?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. My impression is that questions of this type ought normally to be put on the order paper. I know that in past days or weeks hon. members have asked questions about individual applications and individual loans made by the minister's department. A question of a similar type was asked last week. I wonder whether hon. members might not think that such questions should be placed on the order paper. If every member were to ask about individual loans or applications concerning his constitutency we might find ourselves spending much of the question period on such questions dealing with individual applications. I really think questions should be more general. The hon. member might like to rephrase his question.

• (2:30 p.m.)

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I shall try to do that. If the answer to this unacceptable question is in the affirmative, can the minister indicate to the House whether he is aware that such a grant will result in the loss of some 350 jobs in Welland for the creation of a mere 70 jobs in Beauharnois and, if so, does he think—