

Mr. Hees: As the minister knows very well, I am referring to the report that will be produced very soon. He knows all about it. I ask him the following supplementary question. As the government obviously is not in the process of preparing such a program, may we expect that in the near future we will have some kind of announcement from the government as to the economic stand of the government on all these matters, and can that be expected in the near future?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, that will be done at the first reasonable opportunity. As a matter of fact, I hope to have occasion this afternoon, in dealing with the export tax bill, to relate my remarks also to some of the economic underpinnings, both international and domestic.

* * *

● (1440)

INDUSTRY

PROPOSED TAKEOVERS OF MACDONALD TOBACCO AND EMCO BY UNITED STATES FIRMS—DEADLINE FOR REPLIES TO MINISTER'S QUESTIONS TO COMPANY OFFICIALS

Mr. William C. Frank (Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the fact Canadians are concerned about foreign takeovers, particularly in western Ontario, and in view of the reaction in regard to the two companies previously mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition, can the minister inform the House whether a deadline was set for replies to be received to his questions and whether there would be significant benefit to Canadians as a result of these takeovers?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, no deadline has been set but I expect to hear very shortly from both parties.

* * *

HISTORIC SITES

PRESERVATION OF HOME OF LATE RIGHT HON. LOUIS ST. LAURENT

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in connection with his special responsibility for national historic sites. In view of the proposed private sale of the residence of the late Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, can the minister advise whether his department is planning to enter into negotiations to ensure that this residence will be preserved as an historic site and thus do honour to this distinguished former Prime Minister?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I do not know which of two residences the hon. member is talking about.

Oral Questions

There is the residence of the former prime minister in Quebec City and the house where he was born in Compton. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended mainly the residence in Compton, not the one in Quebec City.

[English]

Mr. O'Sullivan: I thank the minister for his interest in this matter. In view of the difficulties encountered with regard to the residence of this late Prime Minister and the residence in Hamilton of the late Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson, is the minister considering establishing a special unit within his department to ensure that residences of former Prime Ministers, both those deceased and those still with us, will be preserved as national historic sites throughout this country?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, dedicating buildings for commemoration purposes comes under the jurisdiction of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. This is an independent board that advises the department and which has developed directives concerning the residences of former Canadian prime ministers.

* * *

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR RETURN TO CANADA OF KIDNAPPERS OF JASPER CROSS TO FACE CHARGES

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has or is the Department of External Affairs or the government of which the minister is a member in any way negotiating with the kidnapers of a person known as Jasper Cross for their return to Canada to face kidnapping or other criminal charges?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister assure the House that under no circumstances will these kidnapers be allowed to return to Canada to face criminal charges with the knowledge of the government, considering that they have already been given the benefit of making one choice?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I really have not considered this question in depth but, if they do come back to Canada on the understanding they will face criminal charges, I cannot at first blush see anything reprehensible about that.