

*Employment Support Bill***FINANCE****LEVEL OF CANADIAN DOLLAR IN RELATION TO UNITED STATES DOLLAR**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. It is in connection with the level of the Canadian dollar vis-à-vis the United States dollar. Has the government made an appraisal of where it thinks the Canadian dollar should be vis-à-vis the American dollar and, if so, is it planning any action to maintain it at that particular level?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when we freed the Canadian dollar a year and a half ago we decided it should be left to the market forces to establish the rate, and we have not interfered significantly in the operation of those market forces.

Mr. Saltzman: May I take it from the right hon. gentleman's answer that the policy of the Canadian government is to let the dollar go to whatever level the market dictates even if that means a level of \$1.05 in U.S. currency?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the supplementary is not in order. It is debate. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for South Shore and then call orders of the day.

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FISHERIES**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON MEETING OF ATLANTIC FISHERIES TECHNOLOGICAL CONFERENCE—ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the serious depletion of our fisheries resources off the coast of Atlantic Canada, will the minister be making a report to the House on the discussions and conclusions reached at the sixteenth Atlantic Fisheries Technological Conference presently being held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, and which concludes its hearings on September 29? Will he be taking action on any of the recommendations made by this conference?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): No, Mr. Speaker, but I should be in a position to make a report to the House after October 8 when representatives of the fishing industry and the fishermen will be here in Ottawa to discuss this problem of consideration on the Atlantic Coast.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I waited until the end of the question period before raising this point of order. Some may think it is somewhat frivolous, but it arises out of the exchange between the right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. member for York South when there was a new exhibition of Prime Ministerial pantomime in the House. I should like to know whether the Prime Minister was serious in inviting the hon. member for York South to try to convene a federal-provincial meeting before December 6.

I ask this question because we had one of these gratuitous and facetious invitations from the Prime Minister earlier this session, in May, when the hon. member for St. John's East tried to have a report of the Atlantic Development Council tabled in the House. At that time the Prime Minister told him, "If you have a copy, table it." The hon. member for St. John's East then stood and tried to table the report. There was a hassle, and Your Honour had to point out that, despite the Prime Minister's generosity for which he is known worldwide, it was not possible for the hon. member to table the document. The only reason I am raising this point now is that I want to know whether the hon. member for York South, if he seriously accepts the invitation of the Prime Minister, will be allowed to make a statement on motions on his attempts to convene a meeting?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I was under the impression that the hon. member had completed his point. I am prepared to make a ruling, but if he has not completed his statement I would not want to interrupt him and would allow him to finish his remarks.

Mr. Nowlan: The only concluding remark I want to make is that throughout these question periods it has become increasingly evident that the Prime Minister is abdicating responsibility, and many people in the country are wondering whether he wants to run a government or a holiday magazine.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.

• (3:40 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BILL****MEASURE TO MITIGATE EFFECT ON CANADIAN INDUSTRY OF IMPOSITION OF FOREIGN IMPORT SURTAXES**

Hon. H. A. Olson (for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved that Bill C-262, to support employment in Canada by mitigating the disruptive effect on Canadian industry of the imposition of foreign import surtaxes or other actions of a like effect, be read the third time and do pass.

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as we go into third reading on this bill, I would like to clarify some of the points that have been made in the House and in the committee so that we may be aware of the problems that have been raised. It is very obvious that the bill itself is not designed to solve all of the problems of unemployment in Canada, or all of the problems of industry. It is designed specifically to mitigate the problems that have arisen as a result of the imposition of a surtax by the United States on Canadian exports to that country. It is designed also to provide a vehicle to cope with similar problems that might arise at another time as a result of