

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board. Would he request a transcript from the CBC in order to familiarize himself with the differences expressed by the mediator and the government representative?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity of reading the text of both.

[Translation]

FINANCE

FREEING OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE—CONSULTATION WITH UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): In the absence of the Minister of Finance, I shall direct my question to the Prime Minister.

Days before unpegging the exchange rate on the Canadian dollar, the government has allegedly consulted with the International Monetary Fund authorities. I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government also consulted the heads of other countries such as the United States, or the Federal Reserve System authorities.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would not know about the mafia, Mr. Speaker. As far as the United States and other countries are concerned, consultations did take place.

Mr. Rondeau: I am talking about the Federal Reserve System, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question.

Mr. Caouette: The Prime Minister visited Malaysia.

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the matter of the international exchange rate is much more related to the Federal Reserve System than to the mafia, American or Canadian.

May I ask the Prime Minister whether the government, when it unpegged the Canadian dollar from a fixed exchange rate, acted primarily to improve the competitive position of American industries?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will recognize that his question is argumentative. I feel that this argument was heard last night, in the course of the long debate.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

PLACING OF ARMOURIES UNDER MAXIMUM SECURITY

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Is it the policy of the government to place all armouries in Canada on maximum security, as was done in the case of the Ontario Regiment Armouries in Oshawa last night? If so, would the minister give the reason for so doing?

Hon. Léo Cadieux (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I believe my information is correct and what happened last night was an exercise. We were testing the system.

Mr. Cafik: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Was this exercise prompted in any way by any threatened or attempted thefts of arms from armouries in Canada?

Mr. Cadieux (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, we do these things periodically. It so happens that the hon. member was informed.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

MONTREAL—ACTION TO PREVENT LOSS OF JOBS BY AIRCRAFT WORKERS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Has he looked into the report coming from Montreal that 5,000 aircraft workers in the vicinity of Montreal are to lose their jobs owing to an imminent slowdown in the aircraft industry? If so, is he doing everything he can with his colleagues to see that this industry is kept going so that this catastrophe will not take place?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was informed this morning by the department of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration of this new development, which falls particularly under his jurisdiction. The Minister of Labour is limited primarily to the settling of disputes and the avoidance of disputes and is not so directly concerned with the particular problem of unemployment, but as a member of the cabinet I am equally as concerned as the hon. gentleman.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPAIR FACILITIES FOR MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to