

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—EXPEDITING OF  
TABLING OF STUDY

**Mr. Nowlan:** I will ask it briefly, Mr. Speaker, and, with all deference, I think pretty directly. In view of the Prime Minister's longstanding interest in extending and amplifying a bilingual approach to the federal institutions of Canada, does he as the leader of the government and the Prime Minister of this land think you can have bilingualism from coast to coast and yet have retrograde steps within a province eliminating, reducing or restricting rights which have been there for several years and affecting rights which have been extended in some provinces like New Brunswick and goodness knows—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. That obviously is put in the form of an argument. The hon. member is asking whether the Prime Minister thinks so and so. He is, of course, inviting the Prime Minister to express an opinion, and I do not think that in those terms the question should be answered. The hon. member has made an argument rather than asking a question.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary. In view of reports in today's papers as a result of an interview with the Premier of Quebec last night, and in view of the private nature of the meetings of the constitutional conference last week or the week before, can the Prime Minister tell the House and Canada if the interpretation of the Premier of Quebec is correct with regard to section three of the amending formula in the communiqué and what might happen to section 133 of the BNA Act?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I would think the hon. member's question is hardly in order. I suggest at this point that we should go to another subject.

**Mr. Baldwin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I have a very simple supplementary.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will recognize the hon. member for Peace River, but I caution hon. members that if we spend 10 or 15 minutes on the first question we could have rumblings at the end of the question period and, if so, I think the rumblings should be aimed in a direction other than the Chair. I will recognize the hon. member for Peace River.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Rumblings are what I am used to, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Prime Minister if the communiqué on page 4 indicates that the new proposals are an addition to what is presently in the British North America Act or are they to be considered as replacing the existing provisions of that Act?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the communiqué does not enlighten us on this subject.

**Mr. Baldwin:** That is why we ask you.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Contrary to what hon. members opposite can do, I cannot read the minds of the provinces on this subject.

**Mr. McCleave:** How about reading lips?

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister on another subject. In view of the statement made last night or, to be more precise, early this morning by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources to the effect that the government does not yet have a clear, overt and manifest policy on the issue of foreign ownership, can the Prime Minister say whether the government is taking steps to expedite the tabling of the study on this subject being undertaken by the Minister of National Revenue?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are taking such steps, and I think it is safe to gamble on the fact that we will overtake by far the New Democratic Party and the statement of its policy.

**Mr. McCleave:** You call that progress?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** My second question is supplementary to my previous question. I shall not comment on the remark just made by the Prime Minister. In view of the further statement made early this morning by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources alluding to the debating of this matter in Parliament, can the Prime Minister say whether the debate will be on a white paper presented by the Minister of National Revenue or on a firm position taken by the government?

**Mr. Trudeau:** On one or the other, Mr. Speaker.

FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—INTRODUCTION OF  
IMMEDIATE INTERIM POLICY

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** I would like to address a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of difficulties that have arisen in a number of cases, including the one which was debated in the House last night, is the government now giving consideration to bringing in an immediate interim policy to deal with the problems of takeovers of Canadian firms because of the very obvious difficulties facing many companies, as was expressed in the House last night, in that they simply do not know the rules by which to operate?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker. We are not envisaging an interim policy, as the hon. member says. We regret that in some cases we had to act in an ad hoc fashion, and we want to avoid that as much as possible. We would like to have not an interim but a stated policy of the government. We do not have the facility of the New Democratic Party of being able to have several policies.

**Mr. McCleave:** Fuddle-duddle.

**Mr. Baldwin:** That requires a certain amount of intelligence.