

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate whether this grant is in addition to the \$5 million in grain that was to be delivered to East Pakistan for the same purpose?

Mr. Sharp: Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is a special request made by the Secretary General for help in respect of the administrative costs, and I think we have responded very generously to this request.

PAKISTAN AND INDIA—PROVISION OF MOBILE
HOSPITAL UNITS BY CANADA

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Some weeks ago I asked whether, in respect of the problem in Pakistan, we had made an offer to Pakistan and India of some of our mobile hospital units which are in mothballs in the Department of National Health and Welfare? Was this offer made and, if so, what were the results?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take notice of that question in order that I can give an accurate response.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT IN LIGHT OF UNITED STATES
ECONOMIC MEASURES

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Prime Minister a question the other day regarding the circumstances facing Canada as a result of the DISC program and the 10 per cent surcharge, now aggravated by the recently released unemployment figures. I was under the impression that my suggestion that an address on the state of the economy outlining the objectives and the targets determined by the government would be an excellent way of advising the people of Canada of the realistic situation. As a result of an answer given to the same type of question asked by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley, am I to understand—I am not being facetious in asking this—that the Prime Minister does not think the state of the economy is such that it merits a statement by him now or in the very near future?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have very serious reservations in respect of the hon. member's question when he says "am I to understand" or "are we to understand" that the Prime Minister has reached such and such a decision or is of such and such an opinion. To my way of thinking that is not a proper way to ask a question. I hesitate to suggest to the hon. member that he might rephrase the question. Perhaps it might be easier to allow the Prime Minister to reply.

Mr. Alexander: In light of the preamble just uttered, Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister now give the House and the country the assurance that he will at the earliest opportunity make a statement on the economy, advising the people of Canada and the House as to the realistic state of the country in terms of the economy, the DISC

program, the 10 per cent surcharge and the unemployment picture in order that we may be apprised of what the government has in the way of plans to reduce unemployment and increase productivity?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope this is not a second preamble. Again, the question having been asked I have no objection to the Prime Minister replying briefly to both questions.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): If I correctly followed both preambles, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is asking for something in the nature of a budget speech. I must point out that budget speeches are normally made by the Minister of Finance, and it is not our intention to have him make one at the present time.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, in light of the lack of confidence we in the opposition and the people of Canada have in the statements made by the minister and in view of the fact he has never been right, will the Prime Minister take it upon himself to give leadership in this regard so we will know they have nothing in common by making a statement to the people about what is taking place today in respect of government plans?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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• (3:00 p.m.)

IMMIGRATION

POSSIBLE BARRING OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS
SEEKING TEMPORARY WORK IN CANADA

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the increased unemployment contemplated as a result of the recent United States surtax move vis-à-vis our export market, has the government yet reached any decision regarding the amendment of Canadian immigration legislation or, on the other hand, tightening of the regulations that currently allow United States citizens to move relatively freely across the border for the purpose of temporary employment in Canada, while United States laws generally forbid equal access to Canadians who are seeking temporary work in the United States?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, no formal change has been made in the regulations in this regard at the present moment, though the matter is under active consideration.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. C. Terrence Murphy (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Because I believe it is vital that all blatant examples of male socialist chauvinism should be bared to the public, would