

would be in order. He should not make that statement now.

Mr. Burton: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if the government has completed its studies of the DISC act, as approved by the President of the United States. Has the government assessed what the impact will be for Canada and can the minister say what action the Canadian government is to take to deal with the problems arising from that act?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister and I have said on a number of occasions how difficult it will be to assess the effect of the DISC program on the Canadian economy, because it is impossible to isolate the DISC plan from all other factors such as currency valuation, the surcharge, cost of production, etc. We are monitoring the situation. We suspect that in certain industries DISC will not be used and we know that there is a possibility that it will be used in others. It is impossible to give the sort of black and white answer for which the hon. member is looking.

Mr. Burton: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister inform the House when the government will be in a position to announce policies to deal with this situation and, particularly, when it will be in a position to announce contingency action for dealing with the immediate impact that may result from this act?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, that is a better question, if I may say so. Then I may say that the government, looking at the totality of the economic situation between Canada and the United States will announce its contingency action in the course.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EXEMPTION BY QUEBEC OF PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVANTS—POSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour I shall put my question to his parliamentary secretary.

Is he in a position to tell us whether or not the Quebec government has taken a decision about the contributions of certain categories of employees of that province to the unemployment insurance fund?

[English]

Mr. Ray Perrault (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is not in the House today. I will advise him of the question and make sure that an appropriate reply is prepared for tomorrow afternoon.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Sainte-Marie wish to ask a supplementary?

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

In the absence of the Minister of Labour, I would like to ask the right hon. Prime Minister if, following the decision

Inquiries of the Ministry

taken by the government of the province of Quebec to exclude from the Unemployment Insurance Act CEGEP and hospital employees which the Quebec government considers to be provincial civil servants, it is his intention to nullify that decision by enacting special regulations. In other words, what are the intentions of the federal government in this regard?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, there will be no special regulations. The act is known to this House for it was passed by this House. The government intends to announce very soon the regulations under this act. They are clear and known to everyone, including the government of the province of Quebec.

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[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

POSSIBLE REVALUATION OF UNITED STATES DOLLAR—ACTION OF GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO CANADIAN CURRENCY

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to the subject of international finance. Would the Prime Minister tell the House, if the United States were to indicate to Canada that the United States dollar is to go back to a revised base, whether Canada's currency is to be pegged. How does the Prime Minister envisage the continued floating of our dollar, which is outside the terms of the International Monetary Fund?

Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have had a floating dollar and this has not detracted from our membership in the International Monetary Fund. It has been our position—and it will be even more important to adopt it if the Americans devalue their dollar—that it is impossible for anyone to state with precision where the Canadian dollar ought to be fixed. That is why we have relied on market forces to set the level of this floating dollar at whatever rate is judged to be the right one by the international money markets.

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TRADE

MINI-TYPE SUBMARINE—CANCELLATION OF EXPORT PERMIT ISSUED TO INTERNATIONAL HYDRODYNAMICS—DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and arises from a press release issued this morning which indicated that, for security reasons, the export permit of a B.C. firm has been lifted. Can the minister tell the House, first of all, what security risks exist now that were not present at the time of the issuing of the permit?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, new information was gathered. The decision was made to cancel the permit in question.