

United States in order to secure more information as to the precise terms of the bill to be submitted to Congress?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stanfield: Does the government intend to proceed with the proposed tax cuts affecting manufacturing operations in Canada even in those instances where the benefit of those tax cuts, or a substantial part of it, will simply go to a foreign treasury?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I would think we would have to obtain the clarification the hon. gentleman was seeking before making a final decision in that regard.

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TRADE

PRESENTATION OF STATEMENT ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO UNITED STATES IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S PROPOSED TRADE AND TAX LEGISLATION

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In the light of the Michelin episode, is the government preparing a formal and complete statement on our regional development programs in relation to President Nixon's proposed legislation concerning unfair trade and tax policies and, if so, when will it be presented to the United States government?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I think the hon. member should perhaps address his question with respect to regional expansion plans to my colleague, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. But as to the broad generality of the question I think it is fair to say we shall be watching the trading impact of these measures very carefully. I am sure the hon. member will welcome, as I do, the decision of the United States administration to enter into consultation with us at an early date in connection with the Michelin countervailing duty finding.

Mr. MacKay: Can the minister tell us how the United States study of the Michelin Tire case is proceeding? Has he received any indication of the progress being made and, if so, will he inform the House now or on motions as early as possible?

Mr. Gillespie: We have received a reply to our formal note presented some six weeks or two months ago requesting consultation. The United States government has stated it will be very pleased to enter into consultation with us and we look forward to these talks taking place at an early date.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain for a last supplementary and then the hon. member for Brant.

Oral Questions

FORMAL PRESENTATION TO UNITED STATES OF CANADIAN POSITION RESPECTING BURKE-HARTKE BILL

Mr. Duncan M. Beatty (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the fact that the government has presented no formal position, in writing or otherwise, to the United States government in connection with the Burke-Hartke bill, and bearing in mind the serious implications of this bill, if passed, for our trade, can the minister undertake to prepare a formal and detailed position on the bill and present it to the United States government immediately?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): As the hon. member no doubt realizes, the Burke-Hartke bill is a bill prepared by a United States Congressman and a United States Senator and presented to their respective Houses. There are various ways in which we can make our views on the contents of this bill known, and I can assure the hon. member we are using the normal channels with efficiency.

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MANPOWER

HIRING OF SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE BY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS FROM PRIVATE AGENCIES RATHER THAN THROUGH OTTAWA MANPOWER OFFICE

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Will the minister inform the House whether responsible officials of Manpower in the Ottawa area have investigated the practice of a number of government departments and agencies in Ottawa which hire secretarial assistance from private placement agencies rather than through the Manpower office, paying \$4.25 an hour to the agency which, in turn, pays only \$2.65 an hour to the employee?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I shall investigate that situation with all haste.

Mr. Blackburn: When making inquiries about this practice, would the minister attempt to find out why the Unemployment Insurance Commission, for which he is responsible, paid a private placement agency at a rate of \$170 a week for secretarial assistance rather than go to the Manpower office for which the minister is also responsible?

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• (1420)

[Translation]

INDUSTRY

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES—COMPOSITION OF CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL—DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.