

However, I have read the reply that was given by the Deputy Prime Minister; I am satisfied with it and have nothing to add.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is exactly the attitude of this government, to give no information and to be satisfied with the fact that none has been given. I ask the minister, again, to tell me the basis upon which distribution of these copies was made. If he cannot answer that question—and the security of the government would depend entirely on this answer—can he say how many of the 58 copies that floated all over Canada have been searched for, ferreted out and found and are now in the possession of the Solicitor General or the appropriate minister of the government?

Mr. Blais: The question is of the same nature as those asked of me some time ago by the hon. member for Perth-Wilmot. I have nothing to add and no further comment to make.

Mr. Peters: Nothing is nothing.

Mr. Diefenbaker: There is nothing more indefensible than ignorance and refusal to answer. The minister realizes that if he does answer, the truth will be out.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

VALUE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PREVENT FURTHER DECLINE

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. With the dollar this morning touching a new low over the last 45 years, the government having lost \$1.5 billion in U.S. reserves, borrowed \$750 million in the U.S. market, borrowed another some \$700 million from Canadian chartered banks, raised the bank rate one clear percentage point, and having brought in the budget last night, would the minister indicate if the government plans any new steps to prevent a further fall in the Canadian dollar?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): The policy of the government was announced yesterday in the budget speech.

Mr. Stevens: Would the Minister of Finance indicate if discussions are now under way with underwriters with a view to placing a further issue on the U.S. market; and does he anticipate that a new registration will be made with the SEC shortly, or has it already been made?

Mr. Chrétien: Whenever we decide to borrow, we make the announcement in the normal fashion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stevens: Having read the minister's remarks in the budget speech last night and having heard his answers today, I ask him to indicate, if the usual market forces—to which he likes to refer—take the dollar down to 85 cents, will he care and will that be all right with him?

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously, the question is hypothetical.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stevens: Hypothetical?

Mr. Chrétien: You said "if".

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SMALL BUSINESSES

INQUIRY WHY INCENTIVES NOT INCLUDED IN BUDGET

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Small Business. In view of the fact that everyone agrees that small business is the backbone of a free market economy as well as the largest potential employment sector in Canada, can the minister tell us why he was unable to persuade the Minister of Finance to include much needed incentive oriented programs for the small business community in his budget last night?

● (1442)

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, many thousands of small retailers are more than gratified at the cut in the sales tax, which will have a very stimulative effect on that important part of the small business community. Of course, if the hon. member or others do not agree with me, perhaps they will agree with Mr. John Bulloch who strongly endorsed the budget of last night as a real stimulus to small business.

Mr. Jelinek: Mr. Speaker, if this minister is suggesting that he is satisfied with last night's budget in regard to small business, I would suggest he resign and let someone with guts take over.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INDUSTRY

REDUCTION OF TARIFFS ON COLOUR TVS—DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the information given out by a study done in his department, entitled *Manufacturing Performance*, that this country's manufacturing industry has lost 80,000 jobs in the last four years, and as sales of colour television sets manufactured in Canada dropped 45 per cent last year, and as the closing of Canadian General Electric's television plant in Toronto is the fifth such closing in the past year, could the minister tell the House how this government can possibly justify the negotiating downwards of import tariffs on colour television sets when he knows perfectly well that if carried out,