

Inquiries of the Ministry

member for Cape Breton-East Richmond who directed a number of questions to the Prime Minister and myself last week. I now have the answers, if you will allow me to give them. The hon. member asked first of all:

Prior to any government financial settlement with the shareholders of Dosco, will this matter be brought before the House for agreement?

My answer is that no settlement of the amount of compensation has yet been reached between Cape Breton Development Corporation—Devco—and the former owners of the assets expropriated by Devco on March 30, 1968. It will be a matter of government policy whether or not any proposed settlement with the former owners is brought before the House. I would point out to the hon. member, however, that there is no requirement in the Cape Breton Development Corporation Act for so doing.

His second question was:

—will the Prime Minister also inquire of the Minister of Justice whether the list of shareholders will be made available along with the dates when the shares were acquired by the individuals?

The answer is that Devco did not expropriate the shares of the companies involved in this acquisition but, rather, expropriated the physical assets of those companies which were located in Cape Breton. Accordingly, Devco has no records of the shareholders of those companies and therefore is not in a position to supply the information requested. For the same reason, Devco is unable to supply the text of any agreement between the shareholders of the companies and Dosco.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, since the minister has taken the opportunity to answer those questions, I would ask if he would take a good hard look at any arrangement that the government makes in order to save itself millions of dollars?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is making a representation which he must assume will be taken into account.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**TAKEOVER OF RYERSON PRESS BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—FOREIGN OWNERSHIP POLICY**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Is the minister investigating the reported sale of Ryerson Press to the Canadian subsidiary of a United States company? Can he report on the present situation and can he also indicate whether the government is contemplating any action similar to that taken with respect to Denison Mines earlier this year?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there is no law under my jurisdiction which would give me authority to investigate such a sale.

Mr. Burton: May I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. In view of the state-

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

ments made by the right hon. gentleman and the Minister of National Revenue that it will be some time before the government is able to make public or indicate its policy with respect to foreign ownership, is the government giving consideration to an interim policy to deal with problems and situations such as this one that are likely to arise?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): An interim policy—no, Mr. Speaker. There have been ad hoc decisions which the House knows very well, and in that sense I suppose these could be termed an interim policy, but as requested by the House we have hoped that all these ad hoc decisions would be replaced eventually by a more general policy. I know that the party of the hon. member is having some difficulty in reaching its general policy; perhaps we could have a race.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the minister undertake to investigate the particular matter of the sale of Ryerson Press to determine what action might be taken by the federal government or other jurisdiction to save a very important industry for Canada?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is probably referring to the Combines Investigation Act which comes under my department. There is no evidence that I am aware of connected with the sale or proposed sale of Ryerson Press to show that it is a breach of the Combines Investigation Act.

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HEALTH**REQUEST FOR COMMISSION TO STUDY QUACKERY AND CHIROPRACTIC TREATMENT**

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can the minister indicate whether he has received a communication from the Canadian Medical Association recommending that a commission be set up to study and report on health quackery and chiropractic treatment in Canada? Also, can the minister indicate what action, if any, has been taken on this matter?

An hon. Member: That's a new twist.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I believe, Mr. Speaker, that such a communiqué has been received. I am not in a position at this time to indicate to the hon. member what action, if any, will be taken with respect to the communiqué. I would hope to be in a position to advise him later.

Mr. Yewchuk: Would the minister say whether he will make a statement on motions in this regard?

Mr. Munro: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether a statement on motions will be necessary or whether I can just advise the House and the hon. member when I have the floor in answer to another question.