

*Inquiries of the Ministry*CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN MINISTER AND CONGRESSIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES VISITING OTTAWA

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Does he propose to take advantage of the presence in Canada of a delegation from the U.S. Congress and meet with them privately in order to put forward Canada's position?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would love to be invited to do so and I would do my best to attend if I were invited. But I point out that there are quite a number of learned Members of Parliament taking part in these discussions and I rely on their wisdom and intelligence to put forward the Canadian point of view.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—REASON FOR DELAY IN MAKING
POLICY STATEMENT

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister concerning the government's position with regard to foreign investment. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister assured me on more than one occasion last year that these papers and announcement of the government's position were merely awaiting translation and this would be a matter of days, is it a fact that the lengthy delay in announcement of the government's position relates either to new developments with regard to the government's position, or is it due to an inability on the part of the government to make up its mind on this important question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Neither, Mr. Speaker. The government's mind is made up on its general policy position. I indicated a moment ago that this policy position was to be made public at a time when we could also have the background material, and at a time when we would be sufficiently close to tabling legislation for first reading that there would not be a great deal of uncertainty in the minds of the Canadian public as to how our policy would in fact apply.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): As a further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will allow one last supplementary from the hon. member for Egmont. Hon. members will realize that we have not yet completed the first round of questioning. As a matter of fact we are only on the second question. After that I will have to recognize the representative of the other party to my left. For the moment the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Egmont on a last supplementary, and will again attempt later to see the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings who has an additional supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, could the Prime Minister clear up one mystery and indicate why it has taken two months longer than he originally indicated to complete this important task?

Mr. Trudeau: I think we need more one-handed economists, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, economists generally argue on the one hand, and then on the other hand.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Minister of Agriculture a question—

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont rises on a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Is there nothing we can do with underhanded Prime Ministers?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

SMALL FARM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—INCLUSION OF
ABANDONED FARMS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture.

Since a considerable number of owners of abandoned farms follow with much interest the policies put forward by the minister, will he tell us if his family farm development program will take into account abandoned farms and if he will raise this question with each of the provinces?

[English]

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we will certainly be taking this into account, but the major thrust of the program in the initial stages will be to assist those people who are caught in a situation beyond their control with respect to their income and who are in fact now farming.

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AIR TRANSPORT

STATE OF SERVICES—MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY—
POSITION REGARDING ALLEGED VIOLATION OF LAW BY
CERTAIN TECHNICIANS

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In light of the strike affecting air services, would the minister advise the House as to the state of air services at this particular time, with particular reference to safety?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the state of air services varies from one airport to another throughout the country. Therefore any general declaration is not possible at this time other than to say to the hon. member that the primary demand we are putting upon our officials and the public is that the safety laws be