

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the enormous problem that appears to exist and the very distinct possibility, if not probability, of a tremendous calamity taking place, is the government of Canada taking any steps in conjunction with world organizations to really assess what needs to be done there to prevent a catastrophe of astronomical proportions taking place? Will the Prime Minister not agree that while the approaches he has mentioned are very estimable, something on a much larger scale in the form of a much more highly co-ordinated world-wide effort must be organized if we are to face our responsibilities as citizens of this world?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Hees:** That was not for you, Pierre.

**Mr. Bell:** You are not on a trip now.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The government has indicated to the government of India that it has experts available if it needs experts to help, as the Leader of the Opposition just said, assess the situation. But the opinion of everyone is that the situation now at this stage has been fairly well assessed and for the moment the needs are well known. It is a matter of meeting these needs, and Canada is contributing in meeting these needs in co-operation with others in the way I have just said.

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[Translation]

**INDUSTRY**

**QUEBEC—FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF SOMA—BANKRUPTCY OF AUTOMOBILES MANIC LIMITED—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of economic development.

Considering the difficult situation in which the Soma plant—la Société de Montage Automobile Soma Inc.—finds itself as well as the bankruptcy of Automobiles Manic Ltée—maker of Canadian cars—has the minister been consulted, or has he been requested to provide financial assistance to prevent the closure of this company or to improve the situation in which the Soma finds itself?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, the name of my department is the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

There have been discussions between my department and Manic company and we have awarded them an extremely generous grant. Unfortunately, they still have financial problems. I know that the provincial government is especially interested in that case and I hope there will be a solution. As for me, I can hardly do more

[Mr. Speaker.]

regarding financial assistance since there would then be disparity in relation to the invested capital.

As for the Soma plant, Mr. Speaker, I shall inquire about its present situation.

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[English]

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**OIL COMPANY PRICE INCREASES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO REQUIRE COMPLIANCE WITH RESTRAINTS**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the report handed to the government some time ago by the Prices and Incomes Commission to the effect that four major Canadian oil companies have been in violation of the government's price restraint program, is it the intention of the government to take steps in the near future to require these companies to comply with these price restraints?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of this question on behalf of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

**Mr. Hees:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. As this report was made to the government, not to the minister but to the government, some time ago and obviously has been discussed, according to all reports, extensively by the cabinet, can the Prime Minister not give a report to the House now in view of the fact that the government's action or lack of action in this regard will have a considerable effect on any possible price restraint program the government may have in mind for controlling the present inflation?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, the report was made to the government, but the minister who answers to the House in this regard is the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and in this government we like to share our responsibilities.

**Mr. Hees:** You like to duck your responsibility in reporting for the government and you know damn well you do.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING**

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Considering that the NATO council discussions have concluded and as the Secretary of State for External Affairs is not due back in the House for a week, will we be having a statement on motions about the meeting of this body which some of us consider to be rather important?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I apologize, but in the hubbub I did not get the consideration of the question. I do not know what body the hon. member is referring to. Perhaps he would assist me by telling me the body he is talking about.