

Inquiries of the Ministry

tant thing is to make sure that there is continued benefit under this agreement for both Canada and the United States. With respect to the objective of 100 per cent Canadian value added, this is not in the pact itself. This is an extrapolation that my hon. friend makes from the pact, which seems to him to be a reasonable objective, but others could have different views and even think that this is not sufficient. These are all debatable points and we are willing to talk them over with other people.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby for one further supplementary and then recognize the hon. member.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that the objective of 100 per cent CVA is not in the pact. Is the government of Canada, in terms of its negotiating position on this issue, insisting or requesting that this be added to the pact?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the problem with targets is that they are either too high or too low. If you set a target that is too high and you fail to reach it, you are in trouble. If you set it too low and you overpass the target, you are also in trouble.

MEASURES TO LIMIT INFLATION AND KEEP CANADIAN PRODUCTS COMPETITIVE IN UNITED STATES MARKET

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. As it is obvious that Canadian products must remain competitive if they are to continue to compete successfully in the United States market, is it the intention of the government in the near future to introduce measures designed to keep inflation in Canada from increasing at a rate greater than between 2 per cent and 3 per cent per year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have the situation under review.

Mr. Hees: I think we need more than a review to deal with this matter. Is it the view of the government that Canadian products can continue to compete successfully in the United States market inasmuch as it was announced last night that inflation in that country will be strictly controlled within certain tight limits while inflation in Canada is increasing at a rate which during the last two months reached an annual rate of 9 per cent per year?

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

Mr. Trudeau: Nonsense, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. What the hell are you going to do about it? Is the government going to continue to do nothing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Baldwin: The worst inflation is among parliamentary secretaries.

[Mr. Pepin.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Hees: What a Prime Minister and what a government! My lord! No wonder we are in such a mess.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair has recognized the hon. member for York South.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT THIS WINTER—SUBMISSION OF DETAILS TO PROVINCES FOR CONSIDERATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. I know it has been asked several times recently. May I ask precisely when the House may expect an announcement of the government's program to deal with unemployment this winter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Soon, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hees: Oh, is that not sweet?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, since the federal government's policy program is likely to need the involvement of other levels of government, may I ask the Prime Minister why the government is delaying so long that it becomes increasingly more difficult every day for such a program to be of value?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question is argumentative. I suggest to the hon. member that in those terms it is not in order.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase it. I hope the Prime Minister will not deal with the unemployment problem in the flippant way he usually does.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: He does that because he does not care.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The second supplementary is not an improvement on the first. I suggest to the hon. member that he should ask the question directly.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, since other levels of government will no doubt have to participate in implementing any program that the government may announce, are the outlines of the program now being considered by the government before any of the provincial governments for their discussion and understanding in preparation for their part and the part of municipalities in the program?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, some ideas have been put forth by some provincial governments as to ways in which the government and the country should be dealing with unemployment. We ourselves are considering others. The federal government is not standing in the way of any actions by provincial governments if they want to proceed on their own. I am merely saying that when we have a package to put to the provinces we will put it to them and announce it to the House at the same time.