

Inquiries of the Ministry

The purpose of these meetings is to explore the activities of the Quebec and the federal governments in this field and to study the meaning of the legislation passed by the National Assembly of Quebec.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH RAPPORT**

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Based upon the statement yesterday of the Canadian Ambassador to France that a vital question for Canada is whether it can establish rapport with an enlarged and more integrated European community, can the minister advise if in this urgent matter there are any special plans for early top level discussions with members of the European Economic Community?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker, except that these are not plans; these are realities. We have had discussions with the members of the European Commission. We are now in the process of establishing the kind of links to which the hon. member has referred.

Mr. Macquarrie: May I ask the minister if he has any lack of confidence in this area in that we might be left out in the cold unless we do a little more?

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker, we have a very warm relationship with the European community.

Mr. Baldwin: The trouble is they don't know it.

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FINANCE**RESTRICTIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON FOREIGN CONTROLLED INVESTMENT FIRMS**

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): In view of the fact the Minister of Finance has not been in the House this week, perhaps I can direct my question to his parliamentary secretary and ask him to bring it to the minister's attention. Will the minister take the first opportunity on motions to tell the House what segments of their operations restrictions will be imposed on foreign controlled investment firms by the government?

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**FOREIGN INVESTMENT—FURTHER DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED POLICY WITH PROVINCES—TIME OF ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): My question is for the Prime Minister. I had hoped to ask it earlier. Did the Prime Minister give any indication to the provinces that he would again be discussing foreign investment

policy with them and, if so, will this be done before the end of the year?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The communiqué states that we did discuss this subject. I told them I hoped there would be other occasions to discuss the general subject with them.

Mr. Bell: Is there any hope that the whole foreign investment policy will be announced before the end of the year?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—POSSIBLE SALE OF MONTREAL CANADIENS HOCKEY TEAM TO UNITED STATES INTERESTS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue in his capacity as the minister who is very much concerned about the extent of foreign investment in Canada. Is the minister aware of reports today emanating from Montreal which indicate that some consideration is being given to the sale of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team to United States interests and will he look into the reports?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of these reports until the hon. member asked the question. I will be happy to look into these reports in so far as I have any jurisdiction or responsibility in this area.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**CLOSING OF CHEMCELL LIMITED—POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING NEW INDUSTRIES IN MONTMAGNY**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Since the minister is well aware of the problem created in Montmagny by the closing of the Chemcell plant, could he tell the House if plans are being made to establish new industries in this area, in order to create jobs for the workers who will be laid off soon?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I believe, Mr. Speaker, I shall have very good news to announce soon.

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS**ALLEGED WIDENING OF EQUALIZATION PAYMENT SYSTEM**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question.

Following the Premiers' conference the Prime Minister said yesterday on television that the province of Quebec and the federal government had agreed on how to enlarge