

[English]

## TRADE

## ACTION RESPECTING TRADING BLOCS AND OPERATIONS OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of statements in the report of the Ontario Economic Council calling attention to the changing world patterns in trading blocs and the lack of control by host countries over the operations of multinational corporations, would the government tell us what steps it has taken in connection with the development of these trading blocs and what views it has concerning the operations of multinational corporations, bearing in mind the bleak future predicted for Canada's international trade?

**Mr. Speaker:** I suggest, with respect, that this is a very general question that would normally call for a statement on motions. But if the minister can reply briefly he will be allowed to do so.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I think I can reply briefly. I have not read the report of the Ontario Economic Council, but the presentation of it by the chairman as an amalgam of fact, opinion, argument, judgment and interpretation is not much of an invitation. On the subject, and taking the European Economic Community as an example, I was in the Senate for two hours yesterday, and I will send a copy of my speech to the hon. member. As to all the other blocs, I have spoken brilliantly on these subjects on a number of occasions.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## PROVISION OF FUNDS TO UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA INDIANS RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSAL

**Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys):** My question, Mr. Speaker, is addressed to the Secretary of State. It concerns a question I put to him a few days ago with regard to a telegram received from the president of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, with particular reference to the statement that moneys, the advance of which had been approved in principle by the minister's officials, were not forthcoming, and this without any explanation being given. The minister undertook to investigate; I wonder whether he is now in a position to throw any light on this subject?

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it is about a communication and the hon. member inquired whether I had received it. I must say that we have indeed received it and that we shall be shortly in a position to make an announcement on the subject which interests the hon. member concerning new developments in the government policy.

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

[English]

## INDUSTRY

## MICHELIN TIRE COMPANY—POSSIBLE EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTIES ON CERTAIN IMPORTS

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and is in the field in which he understated his brilliance. Could the minister clarify the Michelin tire situation? I ask this in view of the fact that the president of the Firestone Tire Corporation in a speech reported today has stated unequivocally that the Michelin Tire Company is receiving the benefit of duty-free import of certain tires for a three-year period, confirming the statement made by the former Minister of Finance. Could the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce unequivocally inform the House what the situation is with regard to this matter?

• (1500)

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I always feel a little nervous about invading the responsibility of the Minister of Finance, but I do not see any contradiction in what the hon. member has stated this afternoon. A commitment was made by the Canadian government to a company called Michelin and that commitment has not yet been incorporated in an Order in Council. I do not see any contradiction there.

**Mr. Broadbent:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. I trust we will not become involved in a debate. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby on a supplementary and will then go to the hon. member for Joliette.

**Mr. Broadbent:** My supplementary question to the minister concerns the confirmation that this agreement is presumably ready to receive from the cabinet. Would the minister inform the House whether this is a pro forma action by the government, or does it mean that the issue has not yet been resolved in principle?

**Mr. Pepin:** I have said everything I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker.

[Later:]

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the many complaints that have been registered by the NDP, would the minister endeavour to find out why the leader of the NDP, and especially the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby, are so opposed to secondary industrial development in Nova Scotia, particularly the development of the Michelin Tire Factories in Bridgewater and Granton, Nova Scotia?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That question is, of course, completely out of order.