

Inquiries of the Ministry

tigation Act and, if so, is it the intention of the minister and his officials to investigate this matter?

• (2:40 p.m.)

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the wire I got was sent to my colleague, the Minister for External Affairs, who immediately referred it to me for attention, being the good member for Toronto that he is. In the normal course of events the Director of Investigation and Research under the Combines Investigation Act would examine the effects of a major development such as this in order to determine whether the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act were breached. This will be the case in these circumstances. I should point out that even if the Combines Investigation Act were violated in some way, that violation would hardly be of assistance to the newspaper in carrying on its business.

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Does he not believe that the continuation of the third largest newspaper in this country is of sufficient importance for him or one of his ministers to get in touch with the publisher of the Toronto *Telegram* to determine whether something can be done to keep that newspaper going?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest that this is an argument rather than a question.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, if we cannot ask these important questions of the Prime Minister, then Parliament is at a loss—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member finds ways to answer these very important questions.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR GRANT TO ESTABLISH CARDBOARD MANUFACTURING PLANT AT CABANO

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Has an application for a grant been filed with his Department by the Société populaire des pâtes et papiers du Québec which plans establishing a cardboard plant in Cabano but is now facing major financial problems? If so, what reply has been given to that company?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I shall inquire, Mr. Speaker, and report to the hon. member.

[English]

INCOME TAX

SUGGESTED CREDIT TO CANADIAN FARM MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS TO OFFSET FOREIGN COMPETITION AND STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that sales of foreign-made tractors and other equipment in this country are rapidly increasing, will the government give consideration to authorizing a corporate income tax credit of 10 per cent of the value of made in Canada capital equipment purchased during the year as a stimulant to employment?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if we were considering any such announcement it would, of course, affect tax policy and would be made in the normal manner through a budget.

AMENDMENT OF BILL TO INCREASE EXEMPTIONS ALLOWED FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In light of the FISP decision to take family allowances away from 1.4 million Canadian families, and in light of the government's acceptance that the costs of raising a family today have risen dramatically, which the Prime Minister will know soon, is the government going to amend its new tax bill to substantially increase child exemptions for all Canadian families?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister describe FISP as an example of the government's selective or sleight-of-hand humanitarianism?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

U.S. CLAIM TO MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND AND COASTGUARD INVASION OF WATERS IN DIXON ENTRANCE—CANADIAN POSITION

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would he tell the House the extent to which Canada is exerting itself in pursuance of our sovereignty over Machias Seal Island which is apparently also being claimed by the United States? Can he explain what steps we are taking in that regard?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have always regarded this island as a Canadian island, and that continues to be our position.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Am I to take it then that apart from that declaration the government is taking no deliberate action?