Oral Questions

INDUSTRY

PROCESSING OF RAW MATERIALS IN CANADA IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, but as I understand he has been dispatched to Barbados during this critical budget week, I will direct it to the Prime Minister.

In order to start creating the additional 800,000 jobs which the Canadian Manufacturers' Association recently indicated can be made available in this country if we can overcome our \$12 billion a year trade deficit in fully-manufactured products, when does the government intend to introduce legislation requiring those who export our primary products in their raw state to process a far higher proportion in this country as a condition of exporting, and in this way make available the jobs which Canadians have a right to expect and need very much indeed?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, because the House is well aware of the hon. member's propensity for vacation spots, I think I should correct him: the minister has a trade conference in Trinidad, not in Barbados. Therefore, I urge the hon. member to change his airline tickets so he can go and talk to the minister in Trinidad rather than Barbados, as I know he planned. He would find out what the House knows, that the government has done many things to produce expansion in Canada of the developmental sector. In practically each budget for the past several years, incentives have been given to the manufacturing and processing sectors, which the hon. member could find out about.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. As the Prime Minister did not answer my question and did not make any attempt to answer it, it is very obvious that the government has no intention at all of introducing necessary legislation such as I have outlined to him. Is it not obvious, when we receive vacuous answers such as the Prime Minister just gave, why the economy is in the terrible shape it is today?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Egmont.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS—GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIONS AT UN—HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the recent establishment by his department of a new branch having to do with human rights issues. It also relates to his speech at the United Nations in September which

took particular exception to human rights violations occurring in democratic Kampuchea.

What action has the government taken with regard to furthering its general concern for human rights in the United Nations and, in particular, the establishment of a human rights commissioner to which I believe the government now is committed? Has any particular action been taken by way of follow-up to our concern about human rights violations in Kampuchea, as expressed today by the hon. member for Parkdale in his motion under Standing Order 43?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the human rights commissioner, other than having made our position known at the General Assembly, I have also had our officials advocating this course not only with the officials of the United Nations but with other countries which we hope will support the idea.

On the democratic Kampuchea situation, I was pleased to learn that the Secretary General of the United Nations received an indication from the government of that country to inspect, himself, the human rights conditions. I can only assume that this was, at least in part, as a result of the statements we made at the United Nations. Since the Secretary General is going there, I consider that perhaps the most appropriate course is to await his return to see what kind of a report he makes, before taking any further action.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, respecting the establishment of the human rights commissioner, since Canada has let its position be known at the United Nations, have we taken any initiative to either initiate or co-sponsor a resolution which might effect the achievement of this position which has been discussed for a number of years at the United Nations? I do not believe that Canada, to date, has given any unique or forthright leadership in order that that post can be established and to make the UN more effective in dealing with human rights violations.

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, it sounds to me like a worthwhile suggestion. It may very well have been done at some time in the past, before I was minister, but I do not recall it having been done in the last year or so.

In connection with whether we should put it forward formally, as the hon. member knows, that would depend upon how much support we could assess would be available, by consultation with friendly countries and the like. I will ask my officials to look into it and discuss it myself.

Also, may I just add, lest there be some misunderstanding with regard to Kampuchean refugees, when I mentioned doing nothing until the Secretary General returned, I meant on the broader question. On the question of individual families, I think I announced, at the same time, that we were increasing the assistance to refugees and boat people generally, as they are called.