

anticipate an announcement of a settlement of the major negotiations between Canada and the United States on the automobile pact in the near future, as intimated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or does he anticipate that this may be one of the matters he will discuss with the President at the forthcoming meeting?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it depends on the state of the negotiations on that particular subject which have been going on, as the hon. member knows, for a long while. It also depends on when my own meeting with the President takes place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Egmont on a supplementary and then a last supplementary from the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

[Translation]

I will then recognize the hon. member for Portneuf.

* * *

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL REPORT TO CABINET AND OTHER STUDIES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): I have a question, Mr. Speaker, arising out of an earlier question raised by the Leader of the Opposition concerning the government's proposals in regard to foreign investment. In light of the Prime Minister's answer last week in the House, to the question whether or not the full Gray report plus other studies would be tabled in the House that an announcement might be made within a week or ten days and in view of the fact he then said outside the House that perhaps he would wait until after the annual meeting of the Conservative party before releasing these materials, inasmuch as this suggestion seems to indicate that these materials are available, and since the Prime Minister might want to distinguish between the recommendations contained in the Gray report and other supporting materials and the government's own decision, would the government give consideration to making them available early enough both for consideration by the people of the country and also—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am wondering whether the hon. member has now completed his question.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. member admits that the Conservative party has not made up its mind on this subject yet but could do so within the next ten days. I am looking forward to seeing what their position is. It would be a surprise to us if the Conservative convention took a clearcut position on this or on anything else.

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

Mr. Speaker: Order. I indicated a moment ago that I would recognize the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands on a final supplementary. The hon. member for Portneuf should then be recognized and the

Inquiries of the Ministry

Chair will return to this matter and recognize the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. member for Egmont.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND U.S. PRESIDENT—NEGOTIATION OF REMOVAL OF AMERICAN IMPORT SURTAX

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the government has repeatedly said that it has no intention of negotiating exemption of Canada from the 10 per cent surcharge imposed by the United States, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the government has now abandoned that position and the reason of his meeting with President Nixon is to negotiate Canada out from under the 10 per cent surcharge?

Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The answer to both questions is no, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DELAY IN PAYMENT OF BENEFITS—MEASURES TO IMPROVE SERVICE

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Labour.

Can the minister indicate why those who apply for unemployment insurance benefits and who qualify have to wait five or six weeks to receive their first cheque?

Does the minister appreciate that a whole month without salary is too long and very hard to bear—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now making a speech. In my opinion, the first question is in order. The minister might wish to answer that part of the hon. member's remarks.

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman has any specific cases in mind I will personally intervene to speed up the procedure.

[Translation]

Mr. Godin: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister say whether the Commission is considering the possibility of improving its procrastinating way of doing things?

[English]

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, we are always looking for ways and means to improve the efficiency of the department.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe there are a few supplementaries to the first question. The Chair will now recognize the hon. member for Egmont.