

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Watch your language, George.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Of course that supplementary question is not in order.

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC DECISIONS—STRUCTURE
FOR PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH CANADA

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister which relates to a supplementary question I asked a week or two ago concerning the likelihood of the United States taking more decisions that would have a detrimental effect on our economy. Given the close interrelationship that exists between the economies of our two countries, will he indicate to the House today whether he, the Minister of Finance or any other minister has had conversations with representatives of the United States government in respect of establishing some kind of consultative machinery with the United States government allowing us some opportunity to discuss any decisions that might be taken which would have a detrimental effect on our economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, such consultative machinery does exist, as I am sure the House is aware. We have a continuing committee at the ministerial level with United States and Canadian representatives which studies various matters. They meet to look at the over-all concerns of both governments in respect of immediate and less immediate affairs. The fact that there is machinery in existence does not mean we do not require special ad hoc meetings, as we had in August and in September, at the ministerial and official level to discuss specific events such as those which occurred after the President's announcement. Therefore we are using both standing and ad hoc committees.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister did indicate that the usual machinery we have used has not been sufficient to indicate to the United States government the extent of the impact these decisions will have on our economy, I am wondering whether there has been formulated and hopefully proposed some further structure for ongoing consultations which might remove the possibility of further very bad decisions being taken?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we have had all manner of delegations and representations, and speeches have been made in the United States on this matter by the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Woolliams: That speech should do a lot of good.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, hon. members opposite on the one hand want us to make representations, but when we do they jeer at them and say they do not do any good. They must make up their minds. Do they want us to talk to the Americans or not?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member in a moment.

[Translation]

Does the hon. member for Compton wish to put a supplementary question?

Mr. Latulippe: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Before recognizing the hon. member for Compton, which I shall do in a moment—

[English]

I will recognize the hon. member for Egmont who is rising on a point of order.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that the Prime Minister heard my question. In addition to the normal procedures that have been used, has he not taken the time and the trouble to formulate new approaches which might have some success, considering the impasse we are presently facing?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I suppose new approaches become old the day after one has used them, but we have been using what the hon. member would call new approaches for the past month. Apart from the ministerial and official meetings I have talked about, there was a meeting this week between the United States commerce minister, Mr. Stans, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

• (11:20 a.m.)

There is present now in Canada a NATO delegation which will be listening to a very important speech by the member for Calgary—where is he from—Calgary South. So, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the day after any new and special measure has been taken to communicate with the Americans the member opposite will say, but what new thing have you done since this morning?

[Translation]

SUGGESTED INTRODUCTION OF NEW STABILIZATION
PROGRAMS

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the decrease in international trade and the lagging of Canadian exports, would he tell the House whether this government intends to implement different programs so as to ensure a certain stability to the Canadian economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Yes.

[English]

ESTABLISHMENT OF MONITORING AGENCY TO ENSURE
THAT U.S.-OWNED BRANCH PLANTS OPERATE IN BEST
INTERESTS OF CANADA

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In light of statements by both the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for