

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, there is an anti-dumping tribunal available mostly to producers who feel they are affected by imports in any sector. I do not think the government needs to lead producers by the hand to the door of the anti-dumping tribunal. They are clever and aggressive enough to take those steps themselves.

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is very funny, but on the occasion of a visit to Victoriaville this summer, he announced to textile manufacturers that the legislation on import controls would be more rigid. Is he now in a position to indicate whether a review of those legislative measures is under way and, if so, when will he announce it?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, there are some things the hon. member did not understand. When I was talking in the Eastern Townships, I said that there were perfectly legal and justified means available to the producers to protect themselves before the antidumping court.

Pursuant to Section 26 of the Textile and Clothing Board Act, there is also a possibility for producers, in sectors other than textiles, for instance in the footwear sector, to obtain a decision from the anti-dumping tribunal by showing that injury is being done to their industry.

Therefore what I was saying then is that those instruments are there to be used, and I would encourage producers to use them.

* * *

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

RESPONSE TO CANADIAN REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION
FROM UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—UNITED
STATES VIEWS ON EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT BILL

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government has received a communication from the United States authorities giving an answer to the request of the government of Canada for an exemption from President Nixon's surcharge, and whether the government of Canada has received any communication from the United States authorities expressing any views of that government with regard to the legislation now before a committee to provide some help to the manufacturing export industries of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that we have received no formal reply, but we do know that our representations are under study.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said he had received no formal reply. Has the government of Canada received either a formal or informal communication in respect of either of these subject matters?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I imagine that when the ministers and the officials met they asked questions and got answers, but we have not received a reply to our representations.

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

[Translation]

INCOME TAX

REPRESENTATIONS BY CAISSES POPULAIRES AGAINST
PROVISIONS OF BILL

Mr. Raynald Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister.

In view of the brief submitted by the Fédération des Caisses Populaires Desjardins regarding Bill C-259, does the government intend to amend the bill as a result of those recommendations.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance has informed me that he received such a brief and that he was carefully looking into it since the matter raised is important and since he also wants to add the views he will hear next Monday when he will meet other groups of the co-operative and credit union movements and that all these representations will be the object of a very serious study.

[English]

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the President of the Privy Council. In view of the minister's interest in the Antigonish movement as developed by Father Coody many years ago and which was one of the foundation stones in the development of co-operatives in Canada, will he use his great weight of office with his colleagues when this question is discussed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's question has to be considered as a representation or suggestion to the minister.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EAST PAKISTAN FAMINE—CANADIAN RESPONSE TO
APPEAL BY UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL FOR
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he tell the House what response the Canadian government has made to the urgent appeal of the Secretary General of the United Nations for financial assistance to cover the cost of U.N. relief operations in East Pakistan where it is reported that some 25 million people are threatened with starvation?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the House that the government is providing a grant of \$500,000 in response to this appeal to provide assistance toward the administrative costs being incurred by the United Nations. I understand that the United States is giving \$1 million and the British are giving \$1.2 million. This cash donation will be used to help finance approximately 180 technical and relief experts that the United Nations is presently sending to East Pakistan to identify relief priorities and enhance the efficiency of relief distribution.