

*Inquiries of the Ministry***THE CANADIAN ECONOMY****FOREIGN INVESTMENT—ROLE OF SCREENING AGENCY—  
INQUIRY AS TO POLICY STATEMENT AND LEGISLATION**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Prime Minister a question with regard to the control of foreign ownership. Can the Prime Minister inform the House whether the government now intends to limit the activities of its so-called screening agency with regard to foreign takeovers? I have been informed it is considering limiting them to enterprises above a certain size rather than giving the agency over-all general supervision.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I could not answer that without making the announcement of the policy itself, and I am afraid the member will have to wait for that policy announcement.

**Mr. Lewis:** In view of the Prime Minister's statement and in view of his frequent undertakings to announce the policy, at one time before Christmas, at another time before the session resumed and a third time as soon as the session resumed, can he inform Parliament when we may expect this statement and whether the government is also considering, as I am informed it is, some action between the time the policy statement is announced and the time when the legislation for Parliament may be ready, which may take five weeks or as long as three months, I am told?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, the usual answer is forthcoming. It will be as soon as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings on a supplementary.

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, as a bill on foreign ownership is listed among the bills to be brought before the House, can the Prime Minister advise the House when this bill will be brought forward as this policy statement has been promised to the country for many months?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, we listed the bill there as we did many other bills because it is the intention to bring them forth in an orderly fashion.

**POSITION OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES**

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Can the Prime Minister bring the House up to date as to what has transpired regarding the trade negotiations between Canada and the United States since February 9 when Secretary of the Treasury Connally made the following statement:

The U.S. will seek appropriate means of reducing imbalances of trade with Canada.

• (1150)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, a lot of things have transpired; most of them are false. What is happening is that the negotiations are continuing between the two countries.

**Mr. Hees:** As a further supplementary—

[Mr. Speaker.]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for York South on a supplementary.

**FOREIGN OWNERSHIP—SIMULTANEOUS  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY AND TABELING OF  
SUPPORTING MATERIAL—REASONS FOR DELAY**

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to ask the Prime Minister whether the policy on foreign ownership will be announced at the same time as the supporting material will be tabled, or whether the announcement of foreign policy will come ahead of such report or other material, and are the delays due to technical reasons concerning translation of the supporting material, and may we therefore expect this to happen by March 17, or some other date, as again I have been informed?

**Right Hon. P.E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure where the hon. member gets all these dates. I wish myself I were able to give a very precise date. I am shying away from that. To answer the substance of the question, the intention would still be to make the policy announcement and to have the background material tabled at the same time.

In reference to another question, Mr. Speaker, I would hope these events would take place as close as possible to the introduction of the legislation because we think it would be important for the community to know what kind of details will be going into the legislation as soon as possible after the policy announcement itself.

**Mr. Hees:** As a further supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Leader of the Opposition on a supplementary.

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**TRADE****CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—DATE OF  
NEXT MEETING**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether a date has been fixed for the next meeting to take place in the course of the Canada-U.S. discussions which the Prime Minister says are continuing? Has a date been fixed for the next meeting, and can the minister indicate what the date is?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** No, Mr. Speaker. No date has been fixed yet but soundings are taking place to that effect.

**Mr. Hees:** As a further supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Hon. members will notice that there are a number of supplementaries still to be asked on this subject. Again we will attempt to move as quickly as we can because soon we will be running short of time.