

there will be a readjustment of the Canada Pension Plan payments at a rate at least equal to those paid by Quebec?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, this proposal was put forward as early as 1970 by the federal government. New proposals were also made recently. However, any amendment to the Canada Pension Plan must be agreed to by two thirds of the provinces having two thirds of the population. It has been impossible to date to reach an agreement with the provinces.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

POSSIBLE DESIGNATION OF AREAS WEST OF REVELSTOKE, B.C.

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the recent unemployment figures which indicate that the rate of unemployment in British Columbia has increased to 9.9 per cent and is now one of the highest in the country, is the minister prepared to designate any areas as depressed areas west of Revelstoke, which is now the most westerly designated area?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to consider new areas or changes in existing areas. The initiative in such cases generally comes from the provinces. We will be having further discussions with the government of British Columbia on this question, hopefully within the next two or three weeks.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES—ACTION TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS—CANADIAN PROPOSALS FOR REVAMPING INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the trade relationship between Canada and the United States is taken much more seriously in Washington than here, has the minister now decided to take the initiative in reopening negotiations in order to seek an early reconciliation?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the premise of the question at all. We regard our trading relationship with the United States as most important. Probably the greatest trading relationship in the world is that between our two countries.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hellyer: I would be most obliged to the minister if he would answer my question. Does he not agree that it would be in Canada's best interests to recommence

Oral Questions

negotiations at once before the United States trade bill has been finalized and presented to Congress?

Mr. Gillespie: As I have told the House on previous occasions, discussions have taken place between United States and Canadian officials. Discussions are going forward now, and further discussions will take place. The very nature of the relationship between our two trading countries is such that irritants are bound to arise from time to time and there will be continuing discussions. It is very much an ongoing process, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hellyer: I have one more supplementary, directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the widely held belief that there can be no rational solution to world trading problems until the international monetary system has been thoroughly revamped, can the minister advise us whether Canada has presented the committee of 20 with any specific proposals for reform?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Last May I spoke to the international bankers' conference in Montreal. I followed that up with a proposal to the international monetary conference in September. We further refined our proposal two or three weeks ago in Washington during the meeting of deputies of the committee of 20 and I shall be in Washington on March 26 and 27 to explain it even more fully.

Mr. Hellyer: Will you tell us tonight what that proposal is?

POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CANADIAN OIL EXPORT CONTROLS ON UNITED STATES ATTITUDE TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER MATTERS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of suggestion in the press that some of his counterparts in the United States regard the controls placed upon the export of Canadian oil as perhaps a political move. What steps has the minister taken to assure his counterparts in the United States that the controls placed upon the export of Canadian oil to the United States are really necessary, in view of the effect these restrictions might have on the attitude of the United States toward negotiations on other matters?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): In this matter, as in other matters of importance between our two countries, consultations have taken place. United States officials were made aware of our intended action before the announcement.

Mr. Stanfield: Is that all you did? Sounds pretty careless.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I should like to ask the minister a question in the light of his answer to my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition. If there was consultation, did the United States officials agree to these controls? Did they acquiesce in them? Did they say they were necessary?

Mr. Sharp: Do you want them to make our policy?