

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**OPPOSITION OF QUEBEC LABOUR LEADERS TO ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM—MINISTER'S POSITION**

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Finance.

In view of the statements made yesterday by the leaders of the two most influential unions in Quebec, the CNTU and the QFL, who went as far as calling the minister an "arrant liar", statements with which I do not associate myself, can the minister tell the House if he maintains his assertion that he unofficially has the support of the Quebec union officials for his anti-inflation measures and, if so, is he willing to name the leaders who have assured him of their support?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I must point out that in fact I did not speak to those two Quebec unions leaders. What I said in Montreal was that, I myself, as well as some of my colleagues, have spoken to many union members who support the government program. I also pointed out the fact that some other union leaders, and I mentioned for instance Mr. Joe Morris, have indicated, privately and publicly, that they were against them. But actually I did not mention the two union leaders the hon. member has referred to, nor am I thinking of them in my remarks.

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

Would he be prepared to agree with the suggestions of the union leaders in Quebec and meet them in a public debate to discuss the relevancy of the anti-inflation measures?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I am not necessarily against such a debate but it seems to me more progressive to have private meetings. If they can make useful suggestions to fight inflation, I would be prepared to see these two gentlemen.

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[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**POSSIBLE DENIAL OF ACCESS TO COURTS FOR SETTLEMENT OF GRIEVANCES**

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if it is now the intention of the government, with the appointment of Mr. Digby Hunt as an Indian claims commissioner, to take the question of Indian claims settlement into the political arena rather than make it possible for natives in the future to take their grievances to the Canadian courts.

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I would not want to upstage, nor could I, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but I think in the interest of giving the hon. member a good

[Mr. Allmand.]

answer we will wait until tomorrow and I will take the question as notice.

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IMMIGRATION**DEPORTATION OF GENERAL QUANG—REASON FOR DELAY**

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I would like to know whether it is now the policy of the government to allow aliens who have been involved in drug trafficking abroad to remain in Canada on so-called humanitarian grounds because they might face prosecution if they were deported. I say this in reference to General Dang Van Quang who has been under a deportation order for nearly four months which order the minister has not carried out.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, in respect of the deportation of General Quang it is a matter of record of course that discussions are taking place, most particularly with the United States authorities to see whether there is any possibility they will accept him under their immigration law and there has not been a refusal on that score as yet.

Very frankly and candidly I would much prefer to see the deportation of this person, as unacceptable as he is for reasons already stated, effected to that country rather than face the final decision as to whether or not to send him back to South Vietnam. While that possibility has any reasonable chance of coming forth I would prefer to delay, even though it may take a few more months for a decision to be rendered.

Mr. Blackburn: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister if in the final analysis there is no other country that will take Quang will he assure the House that he will carry out that deportation order to South Vietnam.

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I will make that decision when the matter of other alternatives is clarified.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT**BID BY GENERAL STEEL WARES TO TAKE OVER WESTINGHOUSE—REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE**

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Can the minister advise if there has been any progress in the discussions between his officials and officials of Westinghouse, White Consolidated Industries and General Steel Wares and whether there has been an extension to the October 31 closing date of the offer of General Steel Wares?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member may be aware a number of meetings have been carried on in recent days. As of this morning I instructed my deputy