

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is well aware that, in my capacity as minister, I have regular meetings with my colleagues from the Atlantic provinces where we discuss the development programs we can launch together. We also exchange correspondence and suggestions. I therefore hope that in the next few weeks we shall be able to finalize some of the secondary agreements which are now under discussion and which might partly solve the problems you have mentioned.

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[English]

FINANCE

POSSIBILITY OF CALLING ON UNITED STATES FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE CREDIT

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance and relates, again, to the plunge in the value of the dollar and the effect of that on unemployment and inflation. Has the Government of Canada, through the Bank of Canada, alerted the Federal Reserve system of the United States, as it must under international agreement, that Canada may well be calling on the line of credit we have with respect to foreign exchange in the Central Bank of the United States?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

[English]

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS OR TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As the government does not take defensive action in that sense, the dollar continues to plunge and we see no sign of anything being done about it, can the Minister of Finance assure the House and the people of Canada who are most concerned about this issue that this government will not introduce foreign exchange controls or restrictions on travel in the foreseeable future?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am able to promise one thing to the House and to the hon. member. We have no intention of introducing controls over currency exchanges between Canada and other countries.

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SUGGESTION CERTAIN MEMBERS BE NAMED TO QUEEN'S PRIVY COUNCIL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I must say that the experience of today would indicate a tremendous improvement, in the House, since we have come to the conclusion that what we are doing is being listened to.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to raise any provocative question today, unaccustomed as I am to doing so. I wish to bring a question to the Prime Minister's attention. In view of Her Majesty's presence here, as in 1967, when premiers across Canada were made members of Her Majesty's Privy Council, I wonder if the government would give consideration on this occasion to naming two or three members of the House of Commons to the Privy Council: First, in the person of the Leader of the Opposition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: He may well lead an alternative government. I also want to add two hon. members, one of whom came in to the House 42 years ago. One is the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands, who served with such distinction not only in this House but in the province of Saskatchewan.

● (1440)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: The other is the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre who came to this House in 1942. These gentlemen should be given the distinction of being named members of the Privy Council. All three of these men have brought distinction to the House of Commons. I hope that on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit in this her jubilee year, the government will give serious consideration to a recommendation that these three hon. members be made members of her Canadian council.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, of course I will give consideration to this very generous suggestion by the right hon. member for Prince Albert. It is a suggestion which is generous in intent, I am sure, but possibly less optimistic than the proposed recipients are themselves about their possibility of acquiring the title by becoming members of the government some day. If the right hon. member is despairing of that possibility, I would consider discussing the matter with the proposed recipients. In the case of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, he has already been offered the title of honourable in the other place and he has repeatedly turned that down.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!