

Economic Community to protest DISC and to work with the EEC to find multilateral responses to the present trend of the trade policies of the United States administration?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I think there are many questions rather than one question in the hon. member's representations. Let me make it quite clear that reports coming out of Washington that would attack DREE, Canadian manufacturing industries and our ability to compete internationally are not positions that we are prepared to accept. Indeed, we have taken measures and are committed to a strong manufacturing industry in Canada, for example, such measures as the corporate tax reduction. Further, I think the hon. member mentioned the foreign investment review legislation which is of concern to certain quarters in Washington. This government believes it is important to ensure that foreign investment provides significant benefit to Canada through the proposed screening process.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

Mr. Hellyer: A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has recognized the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby on a supplementary.

RESPONSE BY UNITED STATES TO PROTEST AGAINST COUNTERVAILING DUTY ON MICHELIN TIRES

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, in view of the strong opposition expressed by the minister to the delegates from the Canadian Labour Congress yesterday concerning any discriminatory trade measures that are taken by other countries against Canada, would the minister inform the House whether or not he has yet heard from the United States concerning our government's protest regarding their countervailing duty against Michelin tires?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the minister's equally strong assertion yesterday that our government would not sit back passively but would take some kind of retaliatory action against discriminatory measures, would the minister inform the House what the government plans to do if, as seems likely, the United States is not going to change its position on the duty levied against Michelin?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, if we are not able to settle the Michelin protest in a satisfactory manner we shall have recourse to the courts and take the issue to the courts in the United States.

Oral Questions

HOUSING

REPORTED RENT INCREASES AFFECTING OLD AGE PENSIONERS FOLLOWING PENSION INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Is the minister aware of the increasing number of reports that pensioners are having their rents and fees increased by landlords and nursing homes following the announced increase in old age pensions, and has he asked Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to set up some kind of mechanism to monitor the situation across the country and ascertain whether injustice is being done to our pensioners?

• (1420)

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of reports in the press and from other sources that some landlords have taken this action. I am not aware of any large number of complaints having been made to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. CMHC has set its rent policy for 1973, but as for trying to monitor privately-held property over which we have no mortgage or other control, any influence the corporation might have would be extremely limited.

Mr. Lewis: As every member of the House knows, there are bound to be some homes providing private accommodation to pensioners that are financed by mortgages under the National Housing Act. It is in this context that I ask the minister whether he will create some mechanism to examine what is happening, at least in the case of those properties that have been built through the assistance of CMHC?

Mr. Basford: Where the property is owned by CMHC, as is often the case, I have ordered that there be—

Mr. Lewis: If the minister would answer—

Mr. Basford: If the leader of the New Democratic Party would listen—

Some hon. Members: Watch it!

Mr. Basford: —he would find out what the government has done. I have ordered CMHC not to increase rents for this year where the corporation owns the property.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: In the case of limited dividend projects where we are bound by contract to take into account increases in the owner's operating expenses, I have ordered CMHC to be extremely strict before allowing such increases. In cases in which we only hold a mortgage we only have the rights of a mortgagee, which are very limited indeed. I will review the terms of the mortgage documents, or of our practice, to ascertain whether there is anything we can do in these cases, but I think the hon. member is as aware of the terms of a mortgage as I am.

Mr. Lewis: Has the minister initiated discussions with his provincial counterparts and, if not, is he prepared to do so, to urge them to impose rent controls as far as