

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS**JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT—ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS OPPOSED TO PROJECT**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Recently, a group of Indians from northwestern Quebec were requesting the support of the federal government in order to stop the works on the James Bay project. Can the Prime Minister say whether the government intends to answer this request in the affirmative? If not, can he confirm again that his government is still prepared to co-operate with this project within authorized limits while giving adequate guarantees to the groups concerned?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has dealt several times with this matter in the House. The hon. member may not have been present yesterday when the minister answered certain questions.

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[English]

TRADE**REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES CONCERNING EFFECT OF IMPOSITION OF COUNTERVAILING DUTY AGAINST MICHELIN TIRES ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce if he has had consultations with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion regarding the implications for the DREE program of the United States threat of countervailing duties on Michelin tires and if he will make representations to the United States government concerning exactly what this means in respect of our regional development program, bearing in mind that other countries exporting to the United States have similar programs?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): To my knowledge there is no attack by the United States authorities on regional development in Canada. I repeat what I said previously. I did not have personal discussions with the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion on that subject, but interdepartmental consultations are going on all the time on this particular aspect of regional development and on the Michelin case in particular.

CANADA-UNITED STATES—INQUIRY AS TO NEW AMERICAN PROPOSALS

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact negotiations on trade between the United States and Canada appear to be in limbo, may I ask the minister whether the United States government has advanced any new proposition to the Canadian government, or whether the Canadian govern-

[Mr. Speaker.]

ment has shown any initiative in this regard, or are we going to confine ourselves merely to reaction to United States government action?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question of the hon. member is, of course, argumentative. It is certainly not acceptable procedurally.

Mr. Danforth: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question.

Mr. Speaker: It might have been easier to have phrased it correctly in the first instance because we will be running short of time.

Mr. Danforth: As the minister stated in the House that there was a field of disagreement and some irritants between the United States and Canada on trade matters, may I ask him whether the United States has advanced any new proposition or taken any new initiative to solve this perplexing problem?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister said yesterday that no hard discussions had been resumed between Canada and the United States on trade matters. We are looking very carefully for the most auspicious time and circumstances to resume these negotiations.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. Is there any truth in the rumour that the Prime Minister has a very important announcement to make?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that a question cannot be asked in those terms. The hon. member may want to give notice of the question so that we can consider it at the time of adjournment next week.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baldwin: On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Peace River rises on a point of order.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the question which my hon. friend asked, I simply want to say that the House would be prepared to give unanimous consent to revert to motions if the Prime Minister has an announcement to make.

Mr. Trudeau: On the same point of order, if the Conservative Party could get a few more on the front benches I might consider that.

An hon. Member: It is the quality, not the quantity, that counts.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: There does not appear to be unanimous consent.