

Oral Questions

get an answer to that question as well for the hon. member.

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF ACKLANDS LIMITED BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—INQUIRY AS TO REPRESENTATIONS BY MANITOBA

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister respecting the matter raised by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. Has the premier of the province of Manitoba communicated with the government and requested its assistance in this matter?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I would have to look into that.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INQUIRY AS TO INFORMATION GIVEN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON CABINET MINISTERS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

On September 5, I put to him a question that he considered too vague, and having reread it in *Hansard* I found it very clear and I should like to put the same question again.

Could the Prime Minister tell the House whether he follows the policy of informing his colleagues, the provincial premiers, when the RCMP or the Solicitor General tell him of some compromising or suspicious action on the part of cabinet members in a province?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I find this question if not vague, at least extremely general, and so, the answer should be just as general: In principle, no.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I shall put a very precise question.

In October 1970, was the Prime Minister aware of the findings of a joint investigation made by the RCMP and the Quebec Provincial Police, concerning specifically the recent disclosures of the Quebec Minister of Justice in connection with the alleged relationships between ex-minister Pierre Laporte and some members of the underworld.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is asking a question relating to events that happened two or three years ago, and I believe that, under the circumstances, it could easily be put on the order paper. If there is any urgency, it could be considered at the time of adjournment.

[Mr. Andras.]

[English]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT—POSSIBILITY OF NEW BUDGET BEFORE END OF YEAR

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one directed by the Leader of the Opposition to the Minister of Finance. In view of the failure of the minister's budget of last February either to reduce unemployment or hold the line on the cost of living, and in view of the fact that high interest rates will further increase unemployment especially in the slow growth regions, does the minister intend to bring in a new budget before the end of the year?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I replied to that question earlier in response to the hon. gentleman's leader. My present intention is no.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASE AND RISING PRICES—
COST-PUSH INFLATION AS FACTOR

Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Given the fact that we have an increase in unemployment and rising prices, and at the same time have seen no real increase in the gross national product in the last quarter, does the Department of Finance or the Minister of Finance consider this evidence that we still have a large element of cost-push inflation operating in the economy?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I do not think the hon. gentleman's conclusion follows his preamble, but I want to remind him that the rate of growth in this country, seasonally adjusted, for the first six months of this year is 9.2 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member on a supplementary, followed by the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Gillies: Is this real growth?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): In real terms.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, again this is a question to the Minister of Finance. I would remind him that in the second quarter there was no real growth in the economy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member kindly ask his supplementary.

Mr. Gillies: What evidence would the Minister of Finance accept that there is still a large element of cost-push inflation in the economy today?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, there has been, as the hon. gentleman may suggest, some slight breakout in the rate of labour settlements over the last month, but the prime influence on inflation in this country is the imbalance in world demand over world supply of commodities, particularly agricultural commodities.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!