

FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW ACT

EFFECT OF PROVISIONS OF ACT ON MARITIME PROVINCES— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the opinion expressed by the premiers of the Atlantic provinces that Canada's Foreign Investment Review Act is placing restrictions on foreign companies and investment in Atlantic Canada at a time when unemployment in our area is 11 per cent or more and rising, is it the intention of the minister to propose that the controversial second part of this legislation be shelved when he meets with the provincial industry ministers on March 10 and 11?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): No, Mr. Speaker, but I do intend to meet with those ministers on that occasion to discuss with them the operation and consultative mechanisms set up by my department and with their departments.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the government House leader. Where is the Prime Minister, what is the matter with him, and is it serious?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see that the hon. gentleman is just as concerned as the rest of us about the health of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has the 'flu. I gather that he was very anxious to come into the House today, but his doctor said it would be advisable that he remain home for another day. I will pass on to the Prime Minister the concern of the hon. member. I know that he will appreciate it very much.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

STRIKE OF GENERAL LABOUR AND TRADES GROUP—EFFECT ON FOREIGN GRAIN COMMITMENTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board with respect to the strike of public service employees now taking place. In view of the fact that at the time of the grain workers strike in the fall of 1974, the Canadian Wheat Board indicated that if the strike lasted for six weeks it would take until mid May, 1975 to fulfill foreign grain commitments, and because there has been at least one other work stoppage, I wonder if the minister is in a position to indicate whether there are any contingency plans to move grain if this current strike persists in view of the very detrimental effect it may have with respect to our foreign commitments.

Oral Questions

● (1450)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): This aspect of the problem does not come under my responsibility, Mr. Speaker. The employees involved have the right to strike. Parliament has given them this right and I believe we must respect it. Of course, any strike creates problems in various sectors of the economy, but Parliament did allow these employees to use this weapon, and I respect this wish.

[English]

STRIKE OF GENERAL LABOUR AND TRADES GROUP— POSSIBLE FORMATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST DISPUTES COMMISSION

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I accept the position the minister takes with respect to the right to strike but in view of the fact that this matter has some serious consequences for the producer in western Canada and across the country, I wonder if he is in a position to indicate whether the government will give consideration to the formation of a public interest disputes commission in order to ensure that Canadian grain producers will not be subject to sales losses as a result of future strikes, slowdowns or work stoppages?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I now have no indication that the strike has seriously disrupted the movement of grain to ports, or the shipping of grain to our customers. In any event, I do not see why, when grain is concerned, the right to strike should be withdrawn and other sectors of the economy allowed to use it. The right to strike is either respected or it is not!

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[English]

IMMIGRATION

REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION WHY ROOSEVELT DOUGLAS STILL IN CANADA FOLLOWING DEPORTATION ORDER

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Manpower and Immigration and concerns the very disturbing circumstances involving one Roosevelt Douglas who is a criminal convicted in the 1969 burning and smashing of the computer at Sir George Williams University. His appeal against deportation was turned down after the minister and the Solicitor General last year signed a rarely used form which indicated that it would be "contrary to the national interest" to allow this professional troublemaker to stay in Canada. Can the acting minister advise why such a person, considered by the court to be a security risk, is still in Canada and last week surfaced to publicly criticize the green paper on immigration?

Mr. William Rompkey (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.