

Inquiries of the Ministry

things within Canada today. I asked whether the Auditor General's salary was going to be adjusted in view of circumstances. I think that is a perfectly proper question. I have asked it—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. McCleave:—and I am hoping for a reply.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is no suggestion on the part of the Chair that the question is not proper. It was just not answered, and that is why the Chair went on to the next questioner.

Mr. McCleave: If Your Honour would excuse me, may I ask for an elaboration of your ruling. I have understood that when questions like this are asked, if they are in reasonable order—and I think mine was—the ministry should at least decide whether they should be answered or not. Your Honour seems to have taken the position that that sort of question should not be answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has misunderstood the Chair. I indicated that the question was perfectly valid but since it was not answered I recognized the hon. member for Broadview, who has the floor.

Mr. McCleave: Thank you, Mr. Speaker; I am glad my question was in order.

URANIUM**DEVELOPMENT OF MINE BY GULF MINERAL RESOURCES—FOREIGN OWNERSHIP RULE**

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): My question is addressed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I ask the minister whether the intended meeting was held yesterday between himself and representatives of Gulf Mineral Resources of Denver with regard to the foreign ownership rule? Also, has the minister assured Gulf Mineral Resources that they may proceed with their development of the uranium mine in the Wollaston Lake area?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I had the meeting to which the hon. member refers. I explained to them the rules as indicated by the government's statement in the House with regard to Canadian ownership of uranium resources. Certainly I have no authority to give assurances. The rules are there and they will be enunciated in greater detail when the regula-

tions are promulgated and announced. It is, of course, up to each individual corporation to determine for itself whether it fits those rules and comes within the definition of a Canadian corporation in the uranium industry.

Mr. Korchinski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that there is an area of uncertainty here, even though a few days ago the minister himself indicated in the House that since this company had been involved in exploration beforehand the rule would not apply, is the minister now denying the statement that he made in the House?

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is debate. I suggest to the hon. member that his supplementary question is not in order, and we might perhaps give an opportunity to another hon. member.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will try to return to the hon. member, but we are running short of time.

INDUSTRY**TIRES—CONCESSIONS TO MICHELIN COMPANY
—MEETINGS WITH OTHER COMPANIES**

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of the answer he gave me the other day that he was meeting with the presidents of some rubber companies, may I ask the minister whether he is giving the same tariff concessions to established Canadian tire companies as he has offered to the Michelin Company?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the offer to Michelin would be a matter for the Minister of Finance. What I said the other day was that my department was consulting tire companies with a view to rationalizing the industry in Canada. These conversations are continuing and I will report to the House in due course.

Mr. Saltsman: A supplementary question. Is the minister saying that he is seeking to include automobile tires in the Canada-United States auto agreement, and are negotiations to this effect being conducted?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, this would be my view, but discussions are going on and we still have to deal with the United States posi-