

Inquiries of the Ministry

hon. gentleman say what specific matters he wishes to discuss with the President—what specific matters form the basis of his request for a meeting with the President at this time?

Mr. Trudeau: It seems to me rather apparent from the news media that the President is meeting with a number of leaders at this time, friends of his, allies of the United States, and it does seem appropriate that at this point Canada should be meeting with the President of the United States to discuss multilateral and bilateral questions.

Mr. Stanfield: I had hoped the Prime Minister was doing more than just getting into line with the other distinguished visitors.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: I am sorry if I have said anything offensive to hon. members opposite.

An hon. Member: Thanks for the apology.

Mr. Stanfield: Since the meeting has apparently been scheduled for late in December, can the Prime Minister tell the House today whether he intends to disclose to the House the policy of his government with regard to foreign investment before meeting with the President, or will the meeting with the President take place before the government's plan with regard to foreign investment is disclosed?

Mr. Trudeau: I am afraid I cannot answer that question. My understanding is that the date of my meeting with the President has not been finalized. It is therefore not possible for me to answer the question until I know when the meeting will take place.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): My supplementary arises from one of the answers the Prime Minister gave. May I ask whether it was he who asked for the meeting with the President of the United States or whether an invitation was extended to him by the President in the first place?

Mr. Trudeau: The approach was made by my office to the President of the United States in the first place.

Mr. Lewis: Would the Prime Minister be good enough to inform us how long ago this approach was made by his office and also whether in making this approach any specific matters were mentioned as a proposed agenda for the discussions.

Mr. Trudeau: The approach was made some time last week. At that time the decision had been made for the Secretary of State for External Affairs to meet with Mr. Rogers in Washington and it was hoped that my meeting would follow that one as soon as possible so that I might be able to follow up some matters which the Secretary of State for External Affairs had discussed with Mr. Rogers. As to subjects on the agenda, there has not yet been an agreement as to the agenda. With regard to the particular question asked by the hon. member, I know of no specific subject which was mentioned; it was just that it would be good for us to get together to discuss multilateral and bilateral questions.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Lewis: May I ask the Prime Minister specifically, if he thinks he can inform the House, whether he intends to discuss the following questions with the President, namely, the 10 per cent surtax, other proposals like DISC and the job incentive program, and in particular the policy at which the government may have arrived at with respect to the control or supervision or surveillance of foreign investment in Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot answer specifically with respect to any of those subjects until the agenda has been established. They are certainly the type of question we would be interested in discussing together, but, as I say, the agenda has not been established and I do not know whether it will include those specific subjects.

• (2:20 p.m.)

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Prime Minister. Is the Prime Minister going to reassert to President Nixon personally the position that Canada should be exempted from the surcharge because the government floated the dollar last year?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, these representations of mine will be made to the President. If it is in the public interest that I say exactly what went on at our meetings, then I shall do so. I do not yet have the agenda so I cannot assure the hon. member that I will be making any specific recommendations.

Mr. Ryan: Is the Prime Minister going to ask the President whether or not the United States government has a list of conditions for the removal of the surcharge on Canadian imports?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the hon. member's suggestion and the suggestions of other hon. members and decide what questions I want to ask the President.

FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER
AND U.S. PRESIDENT—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT
OF AGENDA WHEN AGREED UPON

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I have a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker, for the Prime Minister. Would he give an undertaking to the House that when the agenda has been agreed upon—at that time I suppose the date will also have been agreed upon—he will inform the House on motions of the subjects that have been put on the agenda for discussion with the President?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if I have the agreement of the President to that course I shall consider doing so. I am not certain whether we would want to make the agenda public before the meeting takes place. It is possible that we would not cover all the subjects or that we might cover others that are not on the agenda.

CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT—POSSIBLE EARLY
SETTLEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS—DISCUSSION BY PRIME
MINISTER WITH PRESIDENT AT FORTHCOMING MEETING

Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Does he