

Mr. Saltsman: A supplementary question. In connection with the meeting, can the minister indicate what was the nature of the reservations expressed yesterday, and what was the response of the government to those reservations?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the businessmen themselves have not reached any kind of unanimous position, that some were very much in support of the government proposals, others were doubtful of them and others proposed other means. We have agreed to continue discussions with them.

INFLATION—SUGGESTION ONLY RECOURSE OF GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL IS RESTRICTIVE FISCAL POLICY

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, in view of the three options posed by the Minister of Finance in the last several weeks for solving the alleged problems of inflation, namely compulsory wage and price controls, which has been rejected by the minister himself, and voluntary controls, which seems to have been rejected by those with whom the minister has been consulting, is it the Prime Minister's view that he has no choice now except to bring in restrictive fiscal and monetary policies?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, not at all. Nor would I agree with the premise that voluntary restraint has ceased to be a possible alternative. What I did note is that the hon. member was not talking about inflation but about alleged inflation, which is very interesting to hear.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL SECURITY

BASIS ON WHICH CANADA BECAME MEMBER OF INTERPOL

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Solicitor General.

In view of the fact that no legislation has empowered Canada to become a member of Interpol, would the hon. minister tell whether there is any document empowering Canada to become a member of that international organization? If so, would the minister be willing to table that document?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is correspondence setting out the methods by which Canada became a member of Interpol after the war. No legislation was necessary, but I will look into the possibility of whether these letters and correspondence can be filed.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary.

In view of the fact that communist countries such as Roumania, Yugoslavia and Cuba are already members of Interpol and are thus in a position to secure information concerning Canadian citizens through that organization and then pass such information along to other communist

Oral Questions

countries, members of Interpol or not, does the hon. Solicitor General foresee in view of that situation, any potential danger for Canada's security?

[English]

Mr. Allmand: No, Mr. Speaker. Interpol is used simply as a means of exchanging information on criminals activity. It is not used for security or intelligence matters in any other way, and the fact that Roumania, Yugoslavia and Cuba are members of Interpol does not constitute any threat as far as we can see to Canada or its citizens.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—SUGGESTED EXPLANATION TO BUSINESS OF PRICE JUSTIFICATION LEGISLATION AS MEANS OF GAINING AGREEMENT TO VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question asked earlier by the Leader of the Opposition, and I direct it to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has announced he is ready to proceed with his price justification legislation, and since this would obviously form an important part of the government's anti-inflationary measures, will the Prime Minister explain to the House why the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs was not present yesterday at a meeting of the business community in order to explain this legislation and perhaps put it forward as a means of getting them to agree to voluntary restraints?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in this government one minister relies on all his colleagues as he knows they will represent him in a very forthright way.

INFLATION—INTENTION OF GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO PRICE JUSTIFICATION LEGISLATION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, is it the intention of the government to proceed with the so-called price restraint or anti-profiteering legislation before the end of this session?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): That is certainly a distinct possibility, Mr. Speaker, but it would depend on when this session is intended to end. As the hon. member knows, between now and the end of June, the normal time for adjourning for the summer break, there are more or less 15 government days. If the hon. member glances at the order paper, to which there will be an addition as we will most likely have a budget which will require several days debate, he will realize that we cannot possibly pass all the legislation this government finds desirable, and on which the opposition has been dragging its feet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1420)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay West.

Mr. McGrath: Why do you not provide some leadership.