

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** My hon. friends may laugh, but I have learned not only from the radio but from personal conversations with people in my office that people are asking whether or not this policy is a form of restoration of impressment. What is the nature of this plan which to many seems like a crackpot one? Would the minister please explain?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, this was only a project I mentioned, and which has not been finalized yet. This project is on a completely voluntary basis on either side, which means we want to meet two basic needs: first, the fact that retired people are often idle, although they are prepared to serve their community; second the fact that they often need extra income.

On the other hand, prisoners who are not a serious threat to society could stay in the homes of those retired people and find there, maybe for the first time in their lives, a warm, friendly, and productive atmosphere. It is, therefore, on a purely voluntary basis on either side that this program could be implemented, and I only made those remarks in Edmonton in order to suggest this idea.

Now, if the right hon. member does not like my making an announcement—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has not answered why he contemptuously disregarded the House in not making his announcement here. Second, I want to ask him whether he has not had protests made to his office today from hospitals in this city to the effect that our old people are very deeply disturbed by this? Has he not had any such word?

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, my words must have been misinterpreted, and I know that some people thought that they would lose their pensions if they did not welcome a prisoner into their homes. This is completely wrong, of course, as the right hon. member must be aware.

As for an announcement in this House as to whether the program has been finalized, it will certainly be made. I simply wanted to exchange a few ideas with the people in western Canada, who seemed to me to be very receptive to such ideas.

[English]

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Mr. Speaker, I observe that the making of the announcement outside the House is applauded by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The explanation given by the minister is worthless. I ask him now to answer the question I asked him a moment ago. Has he not received complaints about the number of elderly people who have found themselves in the emergency departments of hospitals in this city in consequence of his statement made outside the House, a statement which for egregious nonsense has never been exceeded?

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

[Translation]

**Mr. Goyer:** Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of this. But I fail to see why this would worry people sick, or why the right hon. member would worry himself sick over this idea.

[English]

**Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General in connection with the plan to station prisoners in the homes of elderly people. Will consideration be given to maintaining the diet of prisoners while they are stationed in the homes of pensioners, or is the government considering increasing the incomes of pensioners in order to enable them to eat as well as the prisoners?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. We will try another subject.

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### FOREIGN INVESTMENT—ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLICY PRIOR TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT

**Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Is it the intention of the government to announce its policy on foreign investment in Canada before the arrival of President Nixon on April 13 so that the policy can be explained to and discussed with him during his visit here, especially in view of the fact that the rewriting of the background study has now been completed and the need for completing this task was cited by the government as the reason for holding up the announcement of its policy?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether a statement can be made before the President arrives but I can assure the House that the presence of the President in Canada will be really quite irrelevant to the decision by Canada on its policy.

**Mr. Hees:** In view of the uncertainty on the government's part, is it the intention of the Prime Minister to have Mr. Nixon announce this policy while he is here as the latest episode in his exciting series of fantastic breakthroughs?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question as asked is irregular.

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### POWER

#### JAMES BAY HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT—ACTION TO SETTLE INDIAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

**Mr. Raymond Rock (Lachine):** Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but in his absence I will direct it to the acting minister. Can the minister tell the House what action the government is taking to settle more rapidly the Indian question and the environmental problems in the