

weeks now. Therefore, I cannot give any response to the Hon. Member.

All I can say is that also in the article referred to by the Hon. Member, the Opposition were complaining about the fact that they did not think we were going to give them enough information. On the contrary, I want it on the record that we were going to give them so much information that they were afraid to go ahead with this inquiry.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I want to give the House Leader the benefit of the doubt.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: He does not need your doubt.

Ms. Copps: You may think that a billion dollar bail-out is a big joke—

Mr. Mazankowski: I think you're a big joke.

Ms. Copps: —but it isn't a joke to the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Ms. Copps: When he misled the House today he said that the reason that the Commission was called for was that the opposition Parties would not agree to a parliamentary investigation. Why in fact did he mislead the House the way he did in Question Period today?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, whenever the Official Opposition is on a sticky wicket and on weak ground, they call on the rats. I am not answering that question. It is simply untrue and unworthy of the Hon. Member. I would ask her if she would not mind trying to do something to restore in her Party at least some of the civility that we expect in the House from Members of Parliament.

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TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns Canada's trade negotiations with the United States. The Minister will know that most Canadians understand the difficulty of discussing trade negotiations in detail before they take place. However, he will also understand that they are most interested in knowing that sort of arrangement is worked out before it is signed.

Will the Minister assure the House that Parliament will have an opportunity to debate and approve of any trade

agreement with the United States before it is signed by Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to go farther than that. Of course we will do that. We are also anxious to have the issue debated here in the House of Commons. That is why we had the matter go before a committee that travelled the country. That is why the Prime Minister, in his statement in the House the other day, said that there would be discussion early in the House if possible, if agreeable with the opposition Parties. We have just learned, in the case of the bank, that Governments might want debates and Governments might want references but we cannot achieve them in the face of an obstructionist Opposition.

We want to have the question of trade and the question of our relations with the United States debated in the House.

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BANKS AND BANKING

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, for a Government that wanted debate, it is strange that we did not talk about the matter for a whole week. However, will the Deputy Prime Minister assure us that all of the information that up until now the Government said it could not provide to the committee because it was illegal will be provided to the commissioner?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, why can the Hon. Member not wait with patience for Mr. Justice Estey—

Mr. Gauthier: We don't trust you, Erik.

Mr. Nielsen: If the Hon. Member does not trust me, perhaps—

An Hon. Member: No one does. Even your mother doesn't, Erik.

Mr. Nielsen: She passed away many years ago.

● (1500)

Perhaps he might trust the Hon. Mr. Justice Estey, who is conducting this inquiry. Let us be patient and see what his requirements are.

I can assure the House that all information that it is possible for us to provide, which has been our position all along, will be provided to assist him in conducting that inquiry.

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO COMMISSION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, will all the information in its entirety, that the Ministers had, that the Inspector General of Banks had, that was available to those