

Inquiries of the Ministry

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As the House is aware, Mr. Speaker, we did consider this alternative, but I announced to the House and I believe the Minister of National Revenue also made the point that we found it advisable to have the government's policy statement appear at the same time as the background material, which we will do.

Mr. Burton: In view of the importance of this subject to the people of Canada, will the Prime Minister consider making his position known to the public before Monday and then proceeding with the publication of background studies at the earliest possible date, recognizing the technical difficulties involved?

Mr. Trudeau: We have considered that point, Mr. Speaker. We took another position mainly because there is such misinformed discussion on this whole subject of foreign ownership that we wanted the policy statement and background material to appear at the same time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT NIXON—DISCUSSION OF APPOINTMENT OF NEW UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I have a supplementary question to that of my leader. It is with regard to the Prime Minister's visit with Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am not sure how the hon. member is asking the question. Perhaps I got up a little too soon. I got the impression he was asking a question of his leader.

Mr. Paproski: My question is supplementary to a question asked by my leader. Does the Prime Minister plan to discuss the appointment of a new Secretary General of the United Nations and is it true that the Prime Minister favours the appointment of Issofou S. Djirmahoye of Niger as the successor to U Thant?

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether the question is in order. I must say that the purport of the question escapes me so it would be difficult for me to make a ruling on it.

MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT NIXON—SUBJECTS ON AGENDA

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact that several members, starting with the Leader of the Opposition, have asked questions of the Prime Minister as to what discussions will take place with the President of the United States, will the Prime Minister now tell us, as this will be the last opportunity for us to ask him, if he has a program of the items he will discuss with the President and what priorities in that program he will be discussing?

• (11:50 a.m.)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot give those details at this time, mainly because I do not have them.

[Mr. Burton.]

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister consider as one of the priorities that he will discuss with the President of the United States the subject of energy, in light of the fact that before a standing committee this morning it was admitted by the Energy Board that reserves in the Arctic were not taken into consideration when the board vetoed the four applications for licences to export natural gas to the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

NEWFOUNDLAND—COMMUNICATION BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WITH LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CONCERNING SITUATION FOLLOWING ELECTION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I ask him whether or not there has been any communication between the government of Canada and the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland in connection with the situation created by the action of the premier of that province in hanging on to office having been defeated at the polls?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if there has been any communication by any minister. As for myself, I know I have not communicated and therefore I would assume that the Governor General would not have communicated with the Lieutenant Governor. I will inquire as regards other ministers.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the Governor General would have nothing to do with it so we can exclude him. I ask the Prime Minister, having regard to the pirouettes that Mr. Smallwood has been dancing with constitutional practice, whether the government or the Prime Minister would direct to the Lieutenant Governor of the province of Newfoundland his constitutional responsibilities, that Lieutenant Governor owing his appointment, of course, to the government of Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me a rather shaky constitutional doctrine, but I will certainly look into the matter. If indeed I have the authority to direct a Lieutenant Governor of a province to do certain things, perhaps I will avail myself of that opportunity.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I did not direct him to do that: I said, let him know what the constitutional practice is.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that Lieutenant Governors are appointed by the Governor General and hold office subject to his pleasure, and in view of the fact that the Governor General acts on the advice of his ministers, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he intends to have a discussion with the Governor General as to what advice he might give?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, is the question related to the previous one about advice that the Governor General might give to the Lieutenant Governor?