

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

from the sort of quiet diplomacy he has engaged in with the automobile companies and increase the safeguards under the Canada-U.S. auto agreement?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Time will tell, Mr. Speaker.

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**MANPOWER**

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—SUGGESTED EXTENSION TO END OF JUNE

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the length and severity of the winter, has the government decided to extend the time for eligibility for forgiveness under the local initiatives program from May 31 to the end of June?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this subject is under active consideration and I expect that the responsible minister will be making a statement soon.

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**TRADE**

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—SUGGESTED REQUIREMENT THAT EXPORTS TO CANADA BE IDENTIFIED

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Essex-Windsor of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the expressed view that there is no United States government requirement to use the DISC name in any export transactions, is the government considering the possibility of developing or formulating a disclosure requirement with respect to United States DISC exports to Canada?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I am sorry but the question is too complex for me to deal with this morning. I will inquire into it further.

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**TRANSPORT**

POSSIBLE USE OF AIRBORNE TANKERS TO MOVE OIL FROM WELLHEADS TO DEEPWATER PORTS

**Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the government giving serious consideration to the use of airborne oil tankers for the movement of oil from wellheads to deepwater ports?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the generality of the question I can say that the answer is yes, but perhaps the hon. member may have some specific idea or concept in mind.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

**POST OFFICE**

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON PROGRESS OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIONS

**Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Treasury Board. Is he in a position to make a progress report to the House on the contract talks taking place with the postal unions inasmuch as the contract expired more than one month ago?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I can only say that the talks are continuing. There was a slight deferral caused by some disagreement within one of the unions in the council of postal unions. Hopefully, this is being repaired.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Can the President of the Treasury Board advise the House whether an offer involving wage and job security has been presented by the Treasury Board?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I indicated relating to the current, temporary interruption, no such proposal has been made.

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**TRADE**

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY PRESIDENT NIXON OR SECRETARY ROGERS ON IMPLEMENTATION DURING VISIT TO OTTAWA

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct to the Acting Prime Minister a question related to the questions asked of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Since it is obvious that at the very time conversations were going on between the Prime Minister and the President of the United States and between the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs and Secretary of State Rogers the President and the Secretary of State must have known about the developments under DISC, was this matter brought forward by either of these gentlemen in their discussions with the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Did any discussion take place? If they did not raise the subject, did the Secretary of State for External Affairs or the Prime Minister raise it, or have they both been deceived and betrayed by them as well?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the discussions between the President and the Prime Minister about trade consisted of a decision to review our respective positions with a view to resuming negotiations. This was the position I also took with Secretary of State Rogers. There was no detailed discussion of particular questions because both the Prime Minister and the President were anxious not to complicate the decisions by getting into a discussion of details. These were to be handled, and I think will be handled most competently, by my colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker—