

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. member like to withdraw his motion?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Transfer for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Transferred for debate.

[English]

Mr. Jerome: May I ask that the remaining Notices of Motions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

LABOUR CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Prime Minister again whether his government has any specific measures to propose to ease prospective unemployment this winter? Yesterday the Prime Minister asked me to hold my breath until the Minister of Finance had spoken. Having dutifully held my breath until the minister took it away by his complacency, and having since regained it, I again ask the Prime Minister whether his government has any specific measures to propose?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, not at this time.

Mr. Stanfield: In view of the necessity of action being taken now if it is to have any effect at all with regard to winter employment, will the Prime Minister not cause a review to be undertaken of the complacent forecasts made by the Minister of Finance in connection with unemployment this winter, forecasts which as far as I know are not shared by anybody else in this country?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member for York South will allow me to recognize the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings who obviously has a supplementary to ask. Immediately afterward I will recognize the hon. member for York South.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—INTRODUCTION OF PRICE AND WAGE GUIDELINES AS MEANS OF CONTROL

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): As there now appears to be little doubt that President Nixon will introduce some form of prices and wage controls after the present 90-day freeze expires, is it the intention of

Inquiries of the Ministry

the government to introduce price and wage guidelines as a means of checking inflation and making it possible for hard-pressed firms to compete in the United States and world markets? If not, does the government intend to introduce some better method of controlling inflation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have said before, and I repeat now, that we are considering this method and keeping it under review, but no decision has been taken to introduce such guidelines.

UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—RESPONSE TO CANADIAN REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It arises out of reports contained in both his speech yesterday and that of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In the discussions in Washington did the United States administration definitely refuse to exempt Canada from the 10 per cent surtax, or was there an undertaking to consider the request with an answer to be given at a later date?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): The latter is the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Lewis: If the latter is the case, would the Minister of Finance inform the House whether he has received any indication when a reply, either yes or no, to his request may be given?

Mr. Benson: No, Mr. Speaker. Talks have been continuing, as I mentioned in my speech yesterday, at the official level, and it has been agreed that there will be further talks in the near future.

Mr. Lewis: During the talks either among the ministers or among the officials have any requests or suggestions been made by the United States authorities that Canada should make concessions in any particular direction in order to obtain the exemption asked for?

Mr. Benson: Certainly not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, with regard to the speech of the minister. Would the Minister of Finance inform the House which side of the House he was threatening when he said he would probably run again, or was he threatening the unemployed?

UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING POSSIBLE USE TO RESTRICT FREE FLOW OF WORLD TRADE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Finance. When the minister was discussing this issue with the United States government, was consideration given to the possible employment of the surcharge