

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Sharp: No, I am not in a position to do that, because we are not proposing an across the board cut of equal amount. The list we have submitted is not in that form at all. It is a positive list of reductions we are prepared to make in return for a 50 per cent cut in other countries' tariffs. To ask what proportion is covered is to ask a question which it is impossible to answer in a comparable form.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

S.I.U. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMPAIGN FUNDS
OF CABINET MEMBERS

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

In view of the position of the Minister of Justice and the rumours which were going round in Montreal over the week end, can he tell us whether he has been in touch with the election organization in his riding and his campaign manager to find out if he was among the Liberal members who allegedly received \$1,000 from the S.I.U. and Hal Banks during the last election campaign?

Hon. Guy Favreau (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there is no need for me to make an investigation to give a negative answer.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a supplementary question.

May I put the same question to the Minister of Industry and Minister of Defence Production? Has he been in touch with his campaign manager to find out if he received \$1,000 either from the S.I.U. or Hal Banks?

[Text]

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member will put that question on the order paper I will see that it is answered.

PENSIONS

CANADA PLAN—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT
ON ECONOMIC REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric A. Winkler (Grey-Bruce): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Now that we have been supplied with an actuarial statement regarding the Canada pension plan I wonder whether the minister would supply the members of this house with a statement

[Mr. Douglas.]

on the economic report in regard to the Canada pension plan.

Hon. Judy V. LaMarsh (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend might have made that suggestion during the course of the previous debate on the bill, not at this time. There has never been any suggestion that the economic report would now be brought forward. At present we are at the second reading stage of the bill, dealing with the matter of its principle. The actuarial report was brought forward in order to assist the individuals concerned. We already have had reference to an economic report and some of its findings in the white paper which has been out for some months now. Also, a number of economists are assisting my hon. friend, some of whom are in the other place and who are often in this chamber's gallery.

It seems to me quite reasonable, Mr. Speaker, since we are dealing with a bill at hand and not general matters, and considering that this afternoon there will be an opportunity to hear the Minister of Finance on this point, that all the information necessary will be available without further discussion of the economic report.

Mr. Winkler: A supplementary question to the minister. The minister herself has now suggested that such a report is in existence, and I believe her parliamentary secretary at one time stated that it was in existence and completed. Therefore, because of the broad ramifications of the matter and the broad interest as indicated by the minister, surely this is the proper stage to have this document, not later on.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I will address to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that after second reading the pension plan will be referred to a special committee, would the Prime Minister consider at the same time referring the economic report on the Canada pension plan to the economic council for their study?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the economic implications of the plan are referred to in the white paper which my hon. friend has no doubt studied and which the committee can also study. I understand that the Minister of Finance will be making a statement later in the debate, I hope this afternoon, on the economic implications of this plan.