

Canada should appoint a special official, as the Americans have done, to facilitate those negotiations. Can the Minister report to the House what action he is prepared to take?

● (1200)

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I was very happy with the report made to me by this delegation that represented all Parties in the House. I have met with the Hon. Member and other Members. I have already had a meeting with the Secretary of State for External Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister. We will certainly appoint a representative also, and hopefully the representatives of Alaska will remove their opposition and allow the treaty that has been negotiated by our two countries to be ratified as quickly as possible by our two Governments.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY

COAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REJECTION

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question would normally be directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion or the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, but I am sure someone will answer for them. It concerns the rejection by FIRA of an application by Petro-Canada to enter into a joint venture agreement with a Japanese firm to develop its northeast coal deposits. I find this situation incredible, particularly in light of the fact that \$3 billion of public money, including significant amounts of federal money, have been spent on infrastructure to deliver this coal to world markets. Why has FIRA taken this position, and is the Cabinet prepared to intervene and overturn this decision?

Mr. René Cousineau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the question and make sure that the Hon. Member receives an answer in the very near future.

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POINT OF ORDER

MR. HNATYSHYN—UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE OF MR. TRUDEAU

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time with respect to some words uttered by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), who is now conferring with a member of the NDP. I will not question what they are discussing but it may be that the Member for The Battlefords-Meadow Lake (Mr. Anguish) was unjustly maligned and it was the Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell).

The fact of the matter is that it is a very serious point of order in terms of the order of the House. During the course of Question Period—I would like to have the opportunity of checking the “blues”, as I am sure you will, Mr. Speaker—I heard the Prime Minister referring to me as a liar. I think that

Point of Order—Mr. Hnatyshyn

word is unparliamentary. I know that the Prime Minister, who is the Prime Minister of Canada, would not want to have such ungentlemanly words attributed to him in the course of deliberations on the floor of the House of Commons.

I have had to take him to task on other occasions with respect to blasphemy on the floor of the House. He has done the proper thing on those occasions and withdrawn categorically those words. I hope that if in fact there was any such language the Prime Minister would stand in his place and demonstrate the fact that he appreciates this institution and is a person who understands the importance of Parliament and will withdraw those unparliamentary words.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as on previous occasions, I let my heart speak out in this place when perhaps I should not have. I heard the Hon. Member distinctly shout to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) words to the effect that he was saying that accountants and lawyers were liars. I think that is a very unparliamentary statement on the part of the Hon. Member.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: It was telling the truth.

Mr. Trudeau: The Hon. Member says that it is the truth.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Whereas he was accusing them of untruths.

Mr. Trudeau: And the Hon. Member was saying that he was accusing them of being liars. That is very unparliamentary, to ascribe intentions to the Minister of Finance. I believe if you look at the rules, Mr. Speaker—obviously I do not have to tell you to look at the rules, Sir, because you know them so well—it is unparliamentary for any Member to impute motives to another Member.

As a good example to the Hon. Member, I will withdraw the use of the term “liar” as applied to him. I would like to make it conditional on his righting his own unparliamentary conduct when he imputed motives to the Minister of Finance. My withdrawal is conditional, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I can clearly say that, as far as anybody on this side of the House is concerned, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) has no discernible motives.

I simply say that that is not sufficient. I say that it is unparliamentary language. The Prime Minister has an obligation to this institution, and if it is going to be conditional, I do not think that that is a proper position for the Prime Minister to take.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair did not hear the exchange. The Chair will have to examine the record of *Hansard* and will rule on the matter raised by the Hon. Member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn) after having examined the “blues”.