

rights of the French-speaking minority in that Province. What is the Prime Minister's position on that proposal?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the position of the Government, and I believe that of all Members of the House, certainly all Leaders of the Parties in the House, as stated in the resolution of last October, was to affirm our intention to support the spirit of an agreement which had been reached last May with the Government of Manitoba and the *Franco-Manitobains*. That is still the position of the Government.

I do not know of this latest amendment. If it is like the amendment put forward last December by the Leader of the Conservative Opposition, which would have had the effect of striking out Section 23(1) I believe, giving rights to French-speaking Canadians, then obviously it would not be acceptable to the Government nor, I take it, to the Leader of the Opposition. I will wait to see what new proposal has been made, Mr. Speaker.

We have hesitated to intervene in the Manitoba situation because I believe it was the intention of the parties there to have a made-in-Manitoba solution to their problem. We have to keep in mind that any constitutional amendment would come before this House ultimately. I can say unequivocally that this Party would not support any amendment which went against the spirit of last May's resolution, which was not supported by the *Franco-Manitobains*.

POSITION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the proposal made by the Conservative Party in Manitoba is to take away Section 23(1) which prevents future Manitoba Legislatures from extinguishing already existing rights. We in this Party reject that. Will the Prime Minister say that he, as the Leader of the Government of Canada, also rejects that proposal?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if that is the intent of the amendment it seems to me it is a repetition of the attempt made before Christmas. I repeat that we would reject such an amendment unequivocally. If such an amended resolution were to come before the House, we certainly could not support it. I would like the Government and opposition Parties in Manitoba to know that.

I hate to make a proposal which I am sure will be judged to be a political interference, but I think it might be useful if the Leaders of the three Parties were to meet again to discuss whether we should re-assert our position which very firmly is not backing down from the agreement of last May. If that is helpful to the Government and people of Manitoba, I would certainly be prepared to entertain a repeat of the resolution we had in the last Session. I hope that would be the case with the Leader of the Opposition.

Oral Questions

INDUSTRY

PETROCHEMICAL TASK FORCE REPORT

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The petrochemical task force under the chairmanship of Mr. Bolger and Mr. Reimer reported to the Minister and his colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, a little over a week ago. Will the Ministers be meeting with these particular members of the task force? They have been meeting with the caucuses of the various Parties in the House. Will the Ministers be meeting with the members of the task force? Is the Minister in a position to tell us today how soon he anticipates being able to make a response to that particular task force report?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I do not know when I will be able to make a report on a solution to this very complex problem. The other Minister and myself intend to meet with the members of the task force very soon.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

DEPARTMENT'S RELEASE OF NAMES OF PETERBOROUGH UNEMPLOYED

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I drew to the attention of the House the illegal use of the social insurance numbers of the unemployed of Peterborough. Since that time I have had an opportunity to examine the list. I am saddened to report that the Supervisor of Investigations and Controls within the Ministry of Employment and Immigration has published the list of all the legitimate unemployed. This means there is very little protection for the innocent and legitimately unemployed in the federal riding of Peterborough when the social insurance numbers become public information.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration announced to the House that yesterday was the first he had heard of this situation. Would he now stand and confirm that what he said was correct?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly sure which words the Hon. Member is asking me to confirm. I will stand in the House and say that, as a result of the information brought to my attention yesterday, in consequence and following his question in the House, I have asked for a report from my officials, and have received that report. I am told that these events, which I very much regret, were an isolated incident. They were contrary to the policies of my Department and may very well have been in contravention of the Privacy Act. I regret very much that they happened. It was a result of administrative error. As far as I am able to determine, it was an isolated case. I have ensured that instructions have been issued to try to prevent the recurrence of such an event.