

Inquiries of the Ministry

ly, that we felt the Canadian dollar should continue to float and that Canada had taken a great deal of the burden with respect to the adjustment of the United States dollar through the floating of the Canadian dollar, that we had taken our knocks so to speak, and the Canadian dollar should continue to float.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

UNITED STATES IMPORT SURCHARGE—PRECONDITIONS FOR REMOVING

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question. In view of the fact the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. John Connally, at the conference in question apparently outlined some of the preconditions for removing the 10 per cent surcharge on imports into the United States, may I ask the Minister of Finance if he is now in a position to tell the House what those preconditions are and if he will be prepared to make a statement fairly soon as to Canada's reaction to those preconditions?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I think the preconditions have been indicated many times before, starting with the statement of the President of the United States on August 15 where he said there must be an adjustment on currency values vis-à-vis the United States dollar, there must be some adjustments on the burden sharing and some relief on trade barriers. We took the position from the beginning, and we continue to adopt the position, that all of the conditions mentioned by the President of the United States have been fulfilled by Canada long ago and that we should not be subject to the surcharge.

DISC PLAN—SUGGESTION THAT PRIME MINISTER EXPRESS CANADA'S OPPOSITION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister. In light of the fact the Minister of Finance has agreed that the DISC plan may be of unparalleled danger to the Canadian economy, can the Acting Prime Minister assure the House that the Prime Minister will express Canada's opposition to this program and will urge President Nixon to not proceed with this measure?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The answer to that is yes, Mr. Speaker, but of course we have many times expressed this point of view to the United States administration.

LEVEL OF CANADIAN DOLLAR—ACCEPTANCE OF CANADIAN POSITION BY UNITED STATES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to ask the Minister of Finance whether the view he has expressed with regard to the Canadian economy—

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Stand up straight.

Mr. Stanfield: Perhaps I should ask the hon. member for St. Boniface to stand up and leave, but that is not my privilege.

[Mr. Benson.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: I ask the minister whether he has put forward the thought that the Canadian dollar has already been adjusted to the extent of between 7 per cent and 8 per cent and this is all the Canadian people should be expected to take in the way of knocks? Has this view been accepted by the representatives of the United States in these discussions?

• (8:30 p.m.)

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier many propositions are before the group of ministers. These propositions are being considered. Indeed, perhaps I might say the Canadian public has taken too many knocks in respect of the adjustment of the United States dollar.

Mr. Stanfield: Perhaps the minister did not understand my question. I asked him whether the representations he had made with regard to the relationship between the Canadian dollar and the United States dollar had been accepted. Have the views expressed by the minister been accepted by the United States authorities? That lends itself to a yes or no.

Mr. Benson: They have been made quite clear to the United States authorities. As I said earlier there are many propositions before the group of ministers, the Group of Ten, and they are all being considered at the present time, but no decisions have been made.

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FINANCE

MEETING OF GROUP OF TEN AT ROME—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RESULTS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I have a question, for the Minister of Finance. Does the minister intend to make a statement on motions tomorrow on the result of the meetings of the Group of Ten and, if not, why not?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I will consider this. I am not sure it is necessary. The meeting has been fully recorded in the press. I will consider the suggestion of the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, the question I was about to ask of the Minister of Finance has already been put to him.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FISHERIES TREATY WITH NORWAY—INQUIRY AS TO RATIFICATION BY PARLIAMENT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs by way of clarification. With regard to the document he tabled a little while ago, to which he referred as an agreement, can the minister say if that is