

Oral Questions

and specifically United States ownership. This was indirectly referred to recently by the Minister of Finance when he said that a good part of our problem of trade imbalance with the United States is connected to the situation. In view of the interpretation put upon the Prime Minister's conversations with West German businessmen and the interpretation made of the recent speech in New York by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, is the government still concerned with the problem of foreign ownership? Also, does the Prime Minister consider that existing legislation is adequate to deal with the problem?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is yes. In answer to the second question, the legislation is adequate in so far as it deals with one problem. However, there are many aspects to foreign ownership and investment control of the Canadian economic environment that the government has followed and will continue to develop, such as taxing approaches, incentives to investment in Canada and so on.

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): In view of what the Prime Minister has said, in light of the statement made in the House by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in March, 1973, namely that we turn control of our future over to those who own our industry, and in light of the limitations in the existing legislation to deal with the broader problem, is the government giving consideration to bringing before the House new legislation to deal with not only takeovers but all new investment in the Canadian economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will recall that under the Foreign Investment Review Act, other investment and takeover is covered in a second part of the legislation still to be proclaimed. The government has indicated it will proclaim this part at a date still to be announced.

● (1140)

REQUEST THAT MINISTER PROVIDE WRITTEN JUSTIFICATION
FOR TAKE-OVERS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Since under the terms of the act the government has turned down fewer than one per cent of the applications, that is to say, only nine of all the applications for take-overs, and since a written explanation has been provided in the case of only one of the take-overs as to the degree to which it meets the requirements of the legislation, would the Prime Minister request the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to provide the House with written justification for all the take-overs in the future and for those which have taken place so far?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As to the preamble to the question, this is a statistical matter; I do not want to contradict the hon. member but I think if he checks the figures he will find the percentage is not what he has indicated. I will check them and I am sure he will, too. My impression is that of some 60 cases which have

[Mr. Broadbent.]

been considered, eight or nine applications have been rejected. This is a considerably higher proportion than one per cent, if my memory is correct.

As to the second part of the question, we shall continue to apply the policy as set out in the law and in the government's statement. The hon. member is making a representation. I propose to review this subject with my colleagues in the not too distant future and I will consider his representation at that time.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INCREASED FUNDS

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

Considering the increase in the unemployment rate in Canada, and more particularly in Quebec, may I ask the Minister of Manpower and Immigration whether he will recommend the approval of other LIP projects to create jobs and alleviate the burden now resting on the Unemployment Insurance Commission?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): I shall need clarification as to what the hon. member means by "other bills" before I can respond.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary following the minister's answer.

Considering that many LIP projects have not been subsidized, although they are valid, does the minister intend to postpone the date for the approval of projects to allow them to be subsidized and to create more jobs, particularly in areas where the unemployment rate is visibly increasing?

[English]

Mr. Andras: No such decision has yet been taken by the government. The whole matter is under consideration. If there is a decision it will be announced in the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have another supplementary.

Because of the urgency of the problem, would the minister tell the House what the community program comprises which he intends to put forward jointly with the Minister of National Health and Welfare, and tell us also whether this program will be implemented in the near future?

[English]

Mr. Andras: I believe the hon. member is referring to the community employment strategy, now in its developmental phase, which we are negotiating with each of the provinces. This will not be a massive program at its inception; it will in fact be limited to about two projects in each province being selected in consultation with the provincial government concerned. Negotiations are going on very