

*Inquiries of the Ministry*  
**THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**

FOREIGN TAKEOVERS—LEGISLATION TO AMEND COMBINES  
INVESTIGATION ACT—POLICY STATEMENT

**Mr. David Lewis (York South):** Mr. Speaker, I have got a little weary of non-answers so I want to ask some questions on another subject.

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** What about non-questions?

**Mr. Lewis:** They were not non-questions; they were non-answers. I would like to ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs a question arising out of the latest figures of domestic and foreign takeovers, which show that in 1969 there was a larger number of foreign takeovers than in 1968, which in turn had shown double the number of several preceding years. In view of this situation I want to ask him when we may expect his promised legislation on the Combines Act, and whether that legislation will deal with foreign takeovers in a distinct way from domestic takeovers?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the legislation will be read the first time as soon as it is ready. Of course it would be improper for me to answer the second part of the question at this time.

**Mr. Lewis:** "As soon as it is ready" does not give very much information. May I ask the minister whether the legislation is ready or almost ready and whether we may expect it very soon?

**Mr. Basford:** I am working very hard on it, Mr. Speaker, and I have indicated a number of times that I hope to have it introduced as soon as possible.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue I wish to direct a supplementary question to the right hon. Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister tell us when we may expect the government statement of policy on foreign ownership in Canada, whether it is to be delayed some months or whether we can expect it in a few days or weeks?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Certainly not in a few days and more likely months than weeks, Mr. Speaker.

TAKEOVER OF CANADIAN FUNERAL FIRMS BY UNITED  
STATES CORPORATIONS

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that, in the interim since I asked a question about this matter on April 7, some 23 Canadian funeral firms have been taken over by two United States corporations, will the government look into this matter in the hope that Canadians may at least be buried by Canadians?

**Mr. Hees:** Stan, you are dead right.

[Mr. Turner.]

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the hon. member's concern with the ownership of funeral parlours.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Basford:** The government, through the Director of Investigation and Research in my department, has been examining the situation for quite some time.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I ask if this investigation will be completed in time for the burial of the government in 1972?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

AID TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Justice.

On May 15 and 21, 1969, in answer to a question that I had put to him, he indicated that he would study the advisability of establishing a commission to compensate victims of criminal acts. He said also, as is reported in *Hansard*, that he would submit this question to the commissioners responsible for the uniformity of law and to the provincial Attorneys General.

Could he say whether these discussions are completed and if he intends to inform the House forthwith about the state of the question, in the light of the events taking place in Quebec?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. I discussed this matter with the ten Attorneys General of Canada in Halifax, in July last. I submitted the question to the commissioners responsible for the uniformity of law in the province of Prince Edward Island in August and September, and I can provide the hon. member, by letter or orally, with a more detailed report.

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[English]

**FINANCE**

SUGGESTED REPEGGING OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

**Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister consult with his colleague the Minister of Finance with a view to making an immediate announcement with respect to the repegging of the Canadian dollar at an appropriate figure? I ask this question because of the immediate dangers facing secondary industry in Ontario and Quebec, where thousands of jobs—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Minister of Finance.