

Oral Questions

fuller exchange of information between countries and a closer watch on multinationals?

Finally, the Inter America Centre of Tax Administration, a Panama based organization of 26 countries which promotes co-operation between tax jurisdictions, will consider this approach when it meets in Washington March 17 and 18. My question is, will Canada be in attendance at this meeting, or will we be sending any observers?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, we will be in attendance, but I am not sure whether as a participant or as an observer. Most assuredly, we are working in close co-operation, particularly with the United States. With respect to some of the countries which form the membership, I must say that their interests may be contrary to ours in so far as being effective and controlling the amount of money which flows out, but we are ever vigilant and ever alert to that problem. We are meeting on almost a weekly basis, and I will be meeting with Mr. Alexander probably in late March or early April.

Mr. Crouse: Would the minister consider the possibility of evaluation of the cost of goods and materials being shipped in and out of Canada and setting a fair market value on them on which tax could be based in order to save some of this tremendous revenue which is required by our country?

Mr. Cullen: If it were as simple as that, we would not have a problem: it is a little more sophisticated than that, and some day perhaps the hon. member and I will have a discussion about it.

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FINANCE**REQUEST FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR REHABILITATION OF SYDNEY STEEL PLANT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who, despite having been born in Ottawa, has his roots in Nouvelle-Écosse, New Scotland. In light of the statement of Premier Gerald Regan at St. Mary's University that rehabilitation of the Sydney steel plant cannot be accomplished without federal funding, which many of us have been saying for some time, may I ask the hon. gentleman if consideration is being given by the government along these lines, and further, has Premier Regan made a representation to the central government for financial assistance?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of meeting Premier Regan at St. Mary's University and discussing with him this matter along with a number of other questions. My recollection—and I would have to refresh it—is that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is participating in an analysis which is currently under way as to the future of the Sydney steel complex, and I do not believe at the moment that that has been completed. There is a full recognition, at this level of government, of the importance of that particular manufacturing facility for the economic

[Mr. Crouse.]

future of Cape Breton Island, which, of course, is one of the most significant parts of this entire country.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**REQUEST THAT MINISTER STUDY GOLDFARB REPORT**

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Has the minister reclassified any of the 12 confidential 1974 studies prepared for his department, and in particular the \$22,000 Goldfarb study into the attitudes of people in the Atlantic provinces toward his department? If not, would the minister read and review the status of this report, as we requested him to do in the committee last year?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, as agreed when the committee sat last fall, I asked my officials to review what reports were classified as confidential. I hope to be soon in a position to reach a decision on making some of those reports public which it seems no longer have to be kept confidential. I trust I can then meet the request of the hon. member to a large extent.

[English]

INQUIRY WHETHER THERE ARE ANY PLANS FOR PORT OF PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Further to our previous discussions, I wonder if the hon. gentleman can say whether DREE has any concrete plans or projects either by itself or in concert with other federal agencies in the province of Nova Scotia for development assistance for the port of Pictou in Nova Scotia?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, first of all I wish to thank the hon. member who gave me notice of his question. Today I asked for information to see exactly what was the situation. Unfortunately, since studies were carried out on the port of Pictou, it has been impossible to develop precise programs either with the provincial government or with the private enterprises which operate in this area, as regards the port itself.

The hon. member will certainly recall that, some time ago, a company which operates in the port of Pictou got assistance from our department. Unfortunately, I must admit that since then we have not received any requests for assistance in this area, although several companies of the Pictou area have submitted requests. However, I hope that the assistance which might be extended will give the port of Pictou a revival of activities.