

one side of the page and on the other, that of the Secretary of State for Commerce of the United States.

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[English]

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS OF CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AS TO VIEWS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of what appears to be a tendency on the part of the Canadian investment community to invest Canadian risk capital in American ventures in Canada, an example of which was the sale by the chairman of the Canada Development Corporation of his firm to American interests prior to his appointment, is the Prime Minister willing to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs so that the committee may have an opportunity to examine the chairman and the board of directors with regard to their views on investment and other important economic matters so vital to Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will gladly ask the House leaders to consider this matter when they have begun to talk to each other once again.

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. As usual, the Prime Minister is as usual at the south pole when I am at the north pole. I referred only to Bill C-259 on which the government is employing its bulldozing tactics.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF MAJOR APPOINTEES AS TO ATTITUDES AND VIEWPOINTS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Since government agencies such as the CDC have such a tremendous influence on the economy and investment in Canada, would the Prime Minister agree to a system whereby major appointees to agencies such as the CDC might come before a standing committee of the House to be examined as to their attitudes and viewpoints?

An hon. Member: And conflicts of interest.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that would be a step toward the presidential system and everyone knows I am against the presidential system.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member for Mackenzie resume his seat? I have noticed him. I have also noticed that he is getting very impatient. He will be recognized in a moment but unfortunately not now. I have to recognize the hon. member for St. John's East first.

Mr. McGrath: Because of the growing tendency by Parliament to delegate authority and tremendous powers to

Inquiries of the Ministry

agencies such as the CDC—and it is only in these cases that it would be relevant—surely the Prime Minister would be prepared, without departing from our customs or our system, to consider referring these appointees to a standing committee of the House, such as the Standing Committee on Finance, so they may be examined with regard to their views on economic matters and any possible conflict of interest that might exist?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that is a very searching observation. I certainly agree there is a growing tendency of seeing power exercised by administrative bodies in all our societies. The corrective I am concerned with now is less that of having Parliament exercise an overview of that authority but to make sure that the executive of government itself has some input into this power as exercised by the administrative bodies.

Mr. McGrath: Thank you, Mr. President.

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TRANSPORT

INSTALLATION OF FLASHING LIGHTS ON RAILWAY ENGINES

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My frustration tends to make me understand Your Honour's frustration. I want to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. On several occasions I have asked the minister whether he would take up the question of flashers on railway engines. He said he would take it under advisement and suggested that the railways perhaps should consider them. Since then, unfortunately, I have lost several friends. I want to ask the question: when in hell are we going to start with this?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I cannot answer that either in the same kind of language or otherwise. In the first instance, it is a matter for the railways. What I undertake to do for the hon. member, in addition to having conveyed his questions to the railways, is to determine if the CTC can perhaps incorporate the use of flashing lights as part of their current study of the whole question of railway safety. I will see that this question is passed on to them immediately.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT—REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCE POLICY BEFORE MEETING PRESIDENT NIXON

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the right hon. member's statement to the House on Wednesday that the government's position on foreign ownership is known to the government, will the Prime Minister consider making the government's position and policy known to the House and the public of Canada before his meeting and discussions with President Nixon next Monday?