

Mr. Gray: But it may well be necessary for a decision to be reached on this by the government before the kind of consideration can take place that my hon. friend and his colleagues have in mind.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

AID FOR MICHELIN TIRE—DISCUSSIONS WITH PREMIER OF NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain has, unfortunately, confused the problems of the car industry with problems of development in other parts of Canada, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

As this question involves joint expenditures of the federal and provincial governments, however, I know that the Minister of Finance is fully aware of the problem. Could he assure this House that the Michelin application under DREE, a national policy of both governments, will be considered on its merits, and will not become involved in any other confusion and/or problems of other industries in other parts of the country? Has he recently had discussions with the Premier of Nova Scotia, and when can we expect an announcement?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I had discussions with Premier Buchanan last weekend by telephone and the earlier weekend, in person—at his request—on a number of development matters affecting Nova Scotia. One of the items we talked about was Michelin.

● (1200)

I want to assure the hon. member that the government proposes to consider that application in the usual way and to consider the important income and employment results it would bring to the province of Nova Scotia. It is our hope that we can conclude the discussion very early and have the matter decided.

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE—LIST OF COMMITMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Secretary of State. Would the Secretary of State place upon the table of the House of Commons a list of all the commitments by the Government of Canada to the advancement of culture and arts in the country which he is contemplating breaking?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I would be delighted to

Privilege—Mr. W. Baker

table with the House a list of all the campaign promises made by my predecessor during the course of the election campaign. I would be delighted to do that, indeed. I would also be interested in seeing whether they were commitments made by the previous government, whether these campaign promises have gone through the process of Treasury Board and cabinet approval, and whether they were indeed campaign promises, as I believe they are.

[Translation]

Mr. Clark: Madam Speaker, I am afraid the Secretary of State did not understand the question I put to him.

[English]

The question I put was whether he will put upon the table a list of those clear commitments by the Government of Canada which his government is now considering breaking.

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, at the moment I am reviewing all of the requests that have been made to us by the cultural community throughout the country.

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Andre: The question was fairly simple.

[Translation]

Mr. Fox: Madam Speaker, here is my reply to the question of the hon. member. I am now going over all requests addressed to me in that field, which come from all parts of the country. I should like to indicate to the former prime minister, the present Leader of the Opposition, that we would be in a far better position to meet those requests if his government had not reduced by, I believe, some seven or eight million dollars, the funds his immediate predecessor, the present Prime Minister of Canada, had made available to help those who labour in the arts. Indeed, the amounts now available to give assistance in the fields of arts and culture have been reduced as a result of the steps taken by his government.

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[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. BAKER (NEPEAN-CARLETON)—ECONOMIC REMARKS OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Madam Speaker, I gave you notice last night, and again today, of a matter which my colleagues and I believe is a very real question of privilege and which is a substantial invasion of the rights of members of Parliament.

I believe that what we saw last night was not, as the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) tried to pretend, a mere summary of the economic situation in Canada or a list of measures which did not go as far as a budget would go. His presentation had the essential ingredients which this House should be able to debate, amend, approve or disapprove within