

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister. Can he assure the House and the country that it is not the intention of the government to announce in the near future further cuts in Canada's contribution to the NATO alliance? I ask him to make this statement so that speculation regarding new responsibility for the Minister of National Defence will not be continued to be interpreted as a prelude to such a statement by the government.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I did not get the import of the question. If it has to do with further cuts in NATO, if it is a question as simple as that, there is no contemplation of such cuts at this time.

TAXATION

WHITE PAPER ON REFORM—CORPORATE PROFITS PROPOSAL

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Has-tings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: It is always nice to be appreciated, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Is the government giving consideration to withdrawing the proposal to tax all corporate profits at 50 per cent, as this will remove the incentive necessary to induce individuals to go into business on their own, and also make it impossible for small businesses to obtain the capital they need for expansion?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the impression the question is more in the form of a declaration. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply.

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I disagree entirely with the conclusions reached by my hon. friend, and the Bullock-Stanfield campaign has not convinced me otherwise so far.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: Is the Minister of Finance not influenced by the hundreds of thousands of letters that have been pouring in from all parts of Canada during the last few weeks?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

[Mr. MacLean.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BILL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the Prime Minister's clearly stated concern over the conflict of interest problem as it affects Senators, Members of Parliament and certain other persons, I wonder if he would discuss with the Government House Leader the possibility of finding a bit of House time to consider Bill C-188 as a means of getting a discussion started on this problem?

As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister finds it difficult to answer that question, I wonder if can he tell us whether the government has any way in which it is going to bring this problem before the House? Otherwise I suggest that my bill might be considered.

INDUSTRY

COPPER—SUBSIDIZING OF FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANIES UNDER NEW POLICY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with regard to the government's policy on minerals. In view of the fact that U.S. producers charge a minimum of 69 cents per pound Canadian for copper, while the London Metals Exchange price was approximately 83 cents last week, is it the intention of the government to subsidize foreign-owned companies with cheap copper at a fixed price of 59 cents per pound?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The question is a bit too complex for me, Mr. Speaker, but the government position on copper was announced last week. I said at the time that 23,500 tons a month would be provided for Canadian fabricators, at a price of 59 cents per pound irrespective of their ownership. If there are other things I should read in the question I will be delighted to consult with my hon. friend after the question period.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

WITHHOLDING OF CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED NATIONS BIRTH CONTROL PROGRAM

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the growing