

go unanswered. There is no attempt such as he indicates. There is an historical tradition in the Northwest Territories and in the Yukon Territory about the position of their Superior Courts and it is that tradition that the minister has violated. If he does not have a sufficient understanding of Canada and the Canadian north, it is just too bad for this country.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the hon. member will not suggest that is a point of order. It is further debate. The hon. member for Skeena wishes to pursue the debate as do other hon. members. The hon. member for Témiscamingue also has rights and I think hon. members should co-operate with the Chair and give him the opportunity to ask a question.

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[Translation]

NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHERN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR EQUAL ALLOWANCES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS AND INDIANS—STEPS TO BE TAKEN

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Yesterday, I asked the minister why the white people at Fort George were not granted the same advantages as the Indians in the same area, and the minister replied that Indians come under the jurisdiction of Ottawa, while white people come under that of Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, is this not clearly a type of separatism between Indians and white people in the James Bay area, and does the minister intend to remedy the situation?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am unable to do anything about it because of the Constitution—Section 91(24) I believe—the Indians and their lands falling under federal jurisdiction. It is an old custom, and when, in 1969, we suggested that it be done away with, the Indians themselves said that they preferred to stay with the federal government rather than being transferred to provincial jurisdiction.

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[English]

TRADE

TARIFF ON MOTOR VEHICLES IMPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS—GOVERNMENT POSITION—DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES OF REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce about the 15 per cent Canadian tariff on motor vehicles imported by individuals into Canada. Will the minister tell the House what the government's position is in respect of this tariff and whether reduction or elimination of the tariff is now under discussion with the United States?

Oral Questions

● (1430)

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I can add to the comments I have made on previous occasions concerning the talks that I think are now back on the rails with respect to the auto pact with the United States. In due course I hope I will have further information to add.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED CORPORATE TAX CUT ON CANADA-UNITED STATES MOTOR VEHICLE PRICE GAP—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF AUTO PACT TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce a question about the proposed measure to reduce corporate tax rates. Is it his position that this proposed tax reduction, if it becomes effective, will result in a reduction in the price gap between the price of motor vehicles in Canada and the United States and, if so, by how much approximately? I ask this question particularly in view of the statement of the president of the Ford Motor Company that he is uncertain whether the proposed corporate tax cut will in fact reduce the gap.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to repeat for the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition that I intend to hold the automobile companies to their commitment with respect to the 1973 model year and to their commitment to meet the government's objective of further narrowing the differential in the 1974 model year.

Mr. Stanfield: I call the attention of the minister to the doubt expressed by the president of the Ford Motor Company of Canada that it will have that effect. I should like to ask the minister whether he is now prepared to refer the automotive pact to a parliamentary committee for a study which would include the extent and the causes of the continuing disparity in the price of motor vehicles between the two countries and would also elicit information as to the operation and effectiveness of the existing safeguards and the effectiveness and benefits of the auto pact in general?

Mr. Gillespie: I think that hon. members on both sides of the House have had an opportunity to discuss this question both in the House—as I recall there was a one-day debate on the matter—and in considerable detail in the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

CANADA-UNITED STATES—DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise the House if a specific date is being considered for the formal resumption of Canada-United States trade talks and, if so, does the minister consider that the Canadian government is sufficiently prepared now to enter into such talks?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): As I have indicated to hon. members, I believe that as a result of the exploratory talks I had with