

Inquiries of the Ministry

for me to indicate to the House what areas will be designated.

[English]

INQUIRY AS TO PAYMENT OF GRANT TO WHOLESAL
HOMES LIMITED

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the dismissal notices given to the entire work force at the plant of Wholesale Homes Limited in Blind River, Ontario, a concern which has been approved for a regional development grant of some \$50,000, can the minister say if any part of this money has been paid to that company yet?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, no, no money has been paid at all. If the facts are as reported to me, I am sure that no money is going to be paid under these circumstances. I hope the Leader of the Opposition is going to help me, because this involves a former Conservative candidate. Maybe we can straighten out the situation a little bit.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister knows very well that he can seek my co-operation on any matter involving the interests of the country.

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TRADE

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—SUGGESTED
DIRECT TALKS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND
PRESIDENT NIXON

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to some that were asked earlier of the Prime Minister. Since the right hon. gentleman seems to have had some success in conveying the impact on Canada of the United States import surcharge to some congressman and senators now in Canada, does he not think that the same eloquence and/or logic he displayed to those gentlemen in Canada could also be displayed to the man who is responsible for this action, the President of the United States, by seeking direct talks with that gentleman and helping to educate him?

• (2:50 p.m.)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I want to make it quite clear that I did not intend to convey to the House that it was as a result of my representations that congressmen had indicated great understanding of the Canadian position. It is a result of statements made by the hon. member for Calgary South and various other members of the Liberal party when they met them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: With all respect to these gentlemen, could the Prime Minister supplement their logic and eloquence by direct representations to the President so that the President could be educated as to the serious impact that the surcharge and especially the DISC program are going to have on manufacturing and on the agricultural indus-

try in Canada? Or will he wait until next spring when they come to look at the tulips in Ottawa?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member for Egmont has a supplementary.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I would defer to my hon. friend to allow the Prime Minister to answer.

Mr. Trudeau: I was only about to thank all opposition parties for the great confidence they are showing in me in this regard. I want to thank them for this vote of confidence they are extending to me.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We shall be running short of time very soon. I shall recognize the hon. member for Egmont because I told him a moment ago I would do so, but perhaps we should go on to the next subject thereafter.

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—APPRECIATION
OF CANADIAN POSITION BY WASHINGTON—
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANADIAN POLICIES

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Perhaps I can ask a question which I put earlier to the Prime Minister. Does he now feel that the administration in Washington either understands or cares about the extent of the impact the present trend of their economic policy is having on Canada? Can he also give us any clear indication, if there is no evidence yet that they have understood our situation, as to when he may be announcing specific policies and programs directed to meet this ominous economic threat?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I can only tell the House that if such policies were to be announced they would be very important and they would be announced in the normal way before the House of Commons.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A final supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: I will recognize the hon. member for a final supplementary on this subject, but we do have to give other hon. members an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): We understand that policies will be announced in the usual way, but in view of the importance of the matter, to which the Prime Minister himself drew attention last Thursday evening, can the right hon. gentleman not give the House any indication, it being almost a month and a half since these policies were initiated by the United States, that we have any idea whether or not the President, the Secretary of the Treasury and others realize the gravity of the steps which are being taken as they affect the Canadian economy?

Mr. Trudeau: As the House knows, ministers of the federal government have been meeting with ministers of the United States administration and representations have been made to them both here in Ottawa when Mr. Stans came and at the international meetings when Secretary Connally was in discussion with my colleague, the Minister of Finance. I do not think that I, or any member of my administration, can pry into the minds of these people to see whether they have a complete understanding of the points we have made to them, but I repeat that in the meetings I had a couple of hours ago it seemed to