

to have an investigation made on behalf of the House, in order to check the truth of those facts or charges?

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, the truth of those facts is quite easily summed up and requires no investigation. Out of 970 preselected projects in Quebec, 39 have been rejected as a result of consultations with members from all parties.

Two types of considerations were taken into account in those consultations: firstly, to make sure that there was no project liable to be used for partisan purposes by any party whatever, and, secondly, to secure the opinion of the people's representatives in this House on the usefulness of the projects for the community.

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary question.

Can the minister then explain, since he has just stated that he asked the advice of various members, why in the Richelieu constituency the only projects accepted are from Bécancour while the remainder of the constituency has been neglected, according to the member for that constituency?

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[English]

INDUSTRY

CHEMICALS—MEASURES TO ASSIST—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the very great concern expressed recently by the Canadian chemical industry regarding the future potential of that industry because of conditions existing in this country and in the world, and the need for positive government action to get that industry going again, has the government any positive suggestions to put forward to help the industry and, if so, will the minister take the first opportunity on motions to outline what they are?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we are, of course, aware of the difficulties of the chemical industry and efforts are being made to help it. I am personally aware of two important projects now being explored. The government is providing all the support it can.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, has the minister considered the very real apprehension of the industry regarding the possible effects of the DISC program on its future, and has he been able to make any positive suggestions to the industry as to what help the government can give if this does become a real problem?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government's reaction to the DISC program, as indicated previously by the Prime Minister, other ministers and myself, will be announced in due course.

Inquiries of the Ministry

TRADE

REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AGAINST BURKE-HARTKE BILL

Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In light of increasing United States' use of DISC and increasing support for extensive import quotas in the United States, particularly by the AFL-CIO, is the government going to seek assurances from the United States government that it will not support the protectionist Burke-Hartke trade bill or similar measures?

• (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Our views on the Burke-Hartke bill are well known. It is obviously the most protectionist bill in the history of the United States, so far as I can remember. It is supported unfortunately by some labour unions in the United States, and we wish that the Canadian unions would make their views known to their counterparts in the United States. Our views on that bill are very well known and one can well imagine what they are. They are extremely unfavourable.

Mr. Ryan: My supplementary question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is the government taking action to upgrade the role of the Canadian embassy in Washington in explaining and protecting Canadian interests at this very crucial time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not see how we can upgrade the status of the Canadian embassy in Washington. It has always had a very high status.

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—INTENTIONS OF CANADIAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As the minister knows, the United Auto Workers Union has opposed the Burke-Hartke bill to which he referred. In view of the fact the minister is meeting with the president of the Chrysler Corporation this afternoon at 3.30 p.m., would he obtain from the president of that corporation during that meeting his intentions regarding the DISC legislation?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Indeed I am meeting with these gentlemen, but I wish my friend would not publicize the hour. It is not fair.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen are entitled to see ministers in the way they want and at least without the press at the door.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!