

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: —is in ensuring that the communications are put to use so that we know what the Americans intend doing in their future policy. This worries not only Canada but the many nations that are affected by the 10 per cent surcharge. I think it is significant that President Nixon in his recent statement to the nation did not refer to international relations. Apparently this aspect of communications is not foremost in his mind. That is not because there are no channels open between us; it has arisen because it is not American policy now to put the proper stuff into the channels which would satisfy the Canadian people.

• (2:40 p.m.)

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question. I thought the Prime Minister might acknowledge there is a special relationship that has existed between Canada and the United States. In view of the obvious frustration and perhaps lack of accurate information that must be behind the recent enunciation of grievances in the Chicago newspaper story, can the Prime Minister indicate to the House what action is being taken by our government to see that we will not continue to be placed in a very disadvantaged situation with regard to economic decisions made in the United States?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there are frequent communications at the ministerial level between the American administration and ours. I answered the Leader of the Opposition a moment ago that, had the American administration not denied the validity of this so-called leak, the Secretary of State for External Affairs would have in fact communicated with the Secretary of State in Washington to see if there was anything behind this so-called leak.

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—SETTING OF TIME FOR NEGOTIATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN GRIEVANCES

Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address my supplementary question either to the Prime Minister or to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the Canadian government or the American government made any specific proposal for a definite time and date for a meeting to negotiate the differences between the two countries as found on their respective lists of grievances against each other?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think it has been said repeatedly in the House that on some of these matters there have been negotiations and exchanges for several months now. There is not one list with one timetable, if that is the question of the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A moment ago I suggested to hon. members that we might go on to another subject. We have perhaps inadvertently returned to the original subject. I again suggest we should not have too many supplementaries on this matter. I will recognize the hon. member for Calgary Centre and then the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Harkness: I wonder if the Prime Minister can explain to us what he means by a timetable in connection with these negotiations?

Mr. Trudeau: The question from the hon. member was whether any time had been agreed to. When I said that there was no timetable agreed to nor even discussed, I was answering the hon. member's question about time.

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—SUGGESTED PERSONAL COMMUNICATION BY PRIME MINISTER WITH PRESIDENT NIXON TO OBTAIN INFORMATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): In view of the importance of this whole subject and the concern that the Prime Minister has expressed about the possible difficulties and long-term effects of the American policy, will the Prime Minister indicate why he will not personally contact the President of the United States in order to get the information that the Secretary of State for External Affairs does not seem able to get? I do not ask this in an argumentative way. Will the Prime Minister personally attempt to get from the President of the United States the information, part of which the Secretary of State for External Affairs is seeking, which is of vital importance to Canada at this time?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the question lacks slightly in candour. If I thought anything positive would come from following up such a suggestion, I would have followed it up long before now.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED ATTENDANCE OF MINISTER AT MEETING IN ALBERTA

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It is with regard to the very important meeting scheduled to commence tomorrow in Alberta and involving Indian people from all across the nation. Will the minister be in attendance at that meeting to hear first-hand the decisions that are made?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): No, Mr. Speaker. However, I invited the chiefs of the area to come and meet me in Ottawa on Thursday and they refused. I hope that they will reconsider my invitation and that we shall be able to discuss the matter here as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Howard (Skeena): I do not know whether the minister has been invited to the meeting in Alberta tomorrow. If he has been invited, does he not think it would be more worth while for him to appear on the scene and see at first hand—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

STATUS OF JEANETTE CORBIERE LAVELL—APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

Mr. Len Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo): In the absence of the Minister of Justice I will direct my question to the