

the hon. member has been very patient I will recognize him for the purpose of asking a supplementary.

Mr. Paproski: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Prime Minister satisfied, as was once intimated by the former minister of communications, that the date of the next federal election is a sufficient instrument to co-ordinate this government's economic policies?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. In view of the very chummy behaviour of the Progressive Conservative member for Prince Edward-Hastings toward the Prime Minister on his visit to Picton fair last Saturday, does the Prime Minister have any other indication that the hon. member wishes to change his party allegiance to the Liberals?

Some hon. Members: Oh, Oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question is, of course, not in order.

Mr. Hees: A question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I gather that the hon. member is seeking the floor on a question of privilege.

Mr. Hees: Yes, Mr. Speaker. When the Prime Minister arrived in my riding he looked so downcast that I felt somebody had to cheer him up, so I did my very best.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

UNITED STATES ECONOMIC MEASURES—DISCUSSION WITH JAPANESE OF JOINT APPROACH TO EASE IMPACT

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Will the Canadian representatives discuss today with the Japanese the possibility of a joint approach to soften up the impact of the United States import surtax and other U.S. economic steps designed to restrict imports into that country?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I am rather certain that this matter will come up in the discussion, Mr. Speaker.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES AND FAMINE—CANADIAN INITIATIVE AT UNITED NATIONS FOR ACTION

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister in reference to the plight of East Pakistan refugees in India and the ominous portents of famine in East Pakistan. Can

Inquiries of the Ministry

the Prime Minister advise whether the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly has been instructed to take any initiative in bringing about major and concerted United Nations action in regard to this very tragic situation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member to the extent that this very tragic circumstance can only be handled if there is a great deal of international co-operation. I cannot at this time talk of any special initiative to be taken by the Canadian delegation but it is something that we will consider.

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FISHERIES

REPORT ON SAFETY OF CONTAMINATED FISH FOR ANIMAL FOOD

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of the Environment. Will the minister report to the House on the results of the research done on mercury contaminated fish in respect of their availability as safe animal food?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): I will, Mr. Speaker.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

QUEBEC—REASONS FOR EXTENSION OF FORMER AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RESULTS ACHIEVED

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the signing last Friday of a federal-provincial agreement between the government of Quebec and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, can the minister inform the House of the reasons for extending the former agreement with the Quebec government, and will he undertake to make a statement on motions in the near future on the results achieved under the first agreement?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I believe both parts of this question ought normally to be answered by a statement on motions.

[Translation]

Unless the minister wants to answer the question briefly.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the agreement was extended because, for reasons which it would take too long to explain, we were unable to bring the first agreement into operation.

[English]

Mr. Nystrom: In view of reports that the first agreement was of little direct help to the people of the Gaspé, can the minister inform the House what steps he intends to take to