

ment in Montreal, intervene to see if some settlement could not be reached with the employers. I agreed that they would do so, and they undertook to do so today.

\* \* \*

### ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

#### PERSONS FROM WHOM GOVERNMENT WANTS AGREEMENT ON RESTRAINT PRIOR TO ENDING CONTROLS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister, as one who has spent several years studying the position of the government on controls. I would like to know what the government's present position is, fully realizing of course that it may be different somewhere down the line. Since the Prime Minister seems to be mistaken as to what is in the green paper, I would like to ask him who the principal decision-makers are from whom the government will be seeking a report. I ask this question because the Prime Minister seems to be under the illusion this has been spelled out, and it has not been. I think not only myself but the people of Canada are interested in knowing what the government's policy is. To whom is the government looking for a binding commitment on a position of voluntary restraint as soon as possible?

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** He is talking about an election promise.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I recognize the hon. gentleman has spent a great deal of time thinking about the problem of controls. In the question of controls, of course, he would want to be reminded that timing, like politics, is all. Perhaps he did not consider that aspect enough when studying this question.

● (1450)

**Mr. Paproski:** His timing was not at fault. It took you nearly 18 months to implement his ideas.

**Mr. Trudeau:** At some periods of the economic cycle the timing is wrong for controls. At other times in the economic cycle—

**An hon. Member:** Like, after an election.

**Mr. Trudeau:**—it is right. As to the main economic decision makers, Mr. Speaker, I could, of course, name a whole series of them. These are people with whom we hope to enter into the proper kind of dialogue in response to the green paper and get the kind of agreement I alluded to earlier. Those whom we have met have been principally but not exclusively union leaders and representatives of large corporations; we have also had occasion to meet with many other groups across the country, and our consultations continue through the green paper, and directly.

### Oral Questions

#### TYPE OF AGREEMENT BEING SOUGHT PRIOR TO ENDING CONTROLS

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question without getting involved in the relationship between timing and, shall we say, frankness.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the importance of the duration of the control period to Canadians generally, as well as to people whom the Prime Minister may be meeting privately, I ask, is the Prime Minister prepared to say precisely, not in the vague generalities of the green paper, what the position is, what kind of agreement the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance are seeking which would bind the principal decision makers of the country. In other words, is this a serious position on the part of the government, or is it one of those timing propositions to keep things up in the air until it is suitable to announce something different to the Canadian people?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, in introducing the notion of frankness the hon. member may be intent on proclaiming his own virtues but I can assure him that, to me, his answer spells out this: he has not understood what I said in my previous answer. In controls, whether of prices and incomes or, for that matter, controls of the exchange rate or controls of the dollar, it seems to me frankness is always desirable but the decision must be made almost simultaneously with the announcement of it.

**Mr. Paproski:** Surreptitiously.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Therefore, I am somewhat puzzled by the introduction of the notion of frankness, as though this were something which existed for all time, as though it is written in the mind of God that controls will come in at a certain time. The hon. member knows that you do not announce those kinds of controls before they are actually brought in.

**Mr. Stanfield:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I am quite prepared to accept that my right hon. friend outmanoeuvred me a few years ago; but if he intends to take the position that frankness is a matter of timing, that is something the Canadian people, excepting himself, will have some difficulty understanding. I ask the right hon. gentleman if the question of confidence in this country is not sufficiently serious for the government to come clean. Instead of playing games with me or anybody else is the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance prepared, rather than issuing some wishy-washy, woolly green paper, to indicate to the people of Canada at this crucial time in our economy what the government's policy is, if it has one?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Paproski:** Come on, Pierre, answer.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I hear hon. members opposite urging a continuation of this dialogue of the deaf. I assure the hon. member that in my view his introduction of frankness is