

*Inquiries of the Ministry*CANADA-UNITED STATES—REASON FOR DELAY IN  
RESUMING DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Prime Minister. Since he and President Nixon agreed to arrange discussions on trade between their respective ministers, what is the reason for the delay in holding these discussions? Is it due to reluctance on the part of the United States government, or is the Canadian government itself deliberately withholding any discussions at this time?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, we are not deliberately delaying, to use the words of the hon. member. We have done what we undertook to do; we have reviewed our position. We are looking at various modifications that we might find desirable, and we are prepared to meet with the United States officials at any time they judge convenient for them after they have done the same thing.

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Speaker, may I put a further supplementary question to the Prime Minister. Is the delay due in any way to the fact that the Canadian government is prepared to make some very serious concessions respecting the auto pact but is waiting till after the election before making these concessions?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question is not acceptable procedurally.

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[Translation]

**MANPOWER**CLOSING OF CIP PLANT, TEMISCAMING—  
REIMBURSEMENT WITH INTEREST OF CONTRIBUTIONS  
MADE BY EMPLOYEES TO THE PENSION FUND

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the hon. Minister of Justice or rather to the hon. Minister of Finance. One of my colleagues says there is no justice there.

Mr. Speaker, I believe my question concerns many federal representatives. It arises from the closing of the Canadian International Paper plant in Temiscaming on May 31. The employees contributed for a number of years to a pension plan to draw a pension when they reached the age of 65. Now they are asking the company to reimburse the amounts paid under the pension plan, along with the interest, since they will be laid off on May 31.

Since I am told that insurance and trust companies in Montreal have these amounts, can the Minister tell us whether he intends to take any action so that the CIP employees may get these amounts since they will no longer be working for the company?

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that this comes under my jurisdiction but in any case, I will consider the representations made by the hon. member and I will give him an answer.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[English]

POSITION OF TALKS ON POSSIBLE PURCHASE BY  
EMPLOYEES OF PART OF SOUTH TIMISKAMING CIP MILL

**Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Have the talks that the minister has held with the workers at the South Timiskaming CIP mill in terms of their purchasing part of that operation with assistance from the minister's department been finalized, or are they still continuing?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the stage the talks have reached now but I will inquire of my department. I do not think they went very far.

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● (1430)

**TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES—REASON FOR DELAY IN  
RESUMING DISCUSSIONS

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, perhaps I might direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since there appears now to be a serious reduction in our balance of trade internationally, with a resulting increase in the importance of our trade relations with the United States, I should like to know whether the delay in the negotiations has been caused by the swiftly changing pattern in the United States making it necessary for a more complicated and in-depth submission on the part of Canadian officials?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any change in the underlying circumstances except, of course, the change in respect of the Secretary of the Treasury.

**Mr. Danforth:** I have a supplementary question which I think is within the purview of the minister to answer. Because of the major importance of these negotiations to Canada and the necessity for early and favourable progress, can the minister indicate whether the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and his top departmental officials are engaged in direct negotiations with their counterparts in the United States, or are we still at the stage of lower level departmental communication?

**Mr. Sharp:** No, Mr. Speaker, the position is as expressed by the Prime Minister, namely, that both sides have been reviewing their positions with a view to resuming negotiations. We are ready to do so at any time but the time has not appeared opportune for the United States.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Calgary North and then return to the second question in respect of which there are supplementaries.