

*Inquiries of the Ministry***INDUSTRY****UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—ACTION TO OFFSET EFFECT ON CANADIAN COMPANIES**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in relation to what is ordinarily referred to as the United States DISC program, on which we have questioned him many times before. Has the minister now determined the effect of this program on Canadian industry and what action, if any, he proposes to take to offset this program?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I trust that the minister can reply briefly. The Leader of the Opposition will recognize that this is a very general question. Perhaps the minister might attempt to reply very briefly. Otherwise he should reply to the matter by way of a statement on motions.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be as brief as I usually am. The answer is simply that the regulations under the DISC program have not yet been published. Second, all the efforts we have made to assess the use that United States companies will make of the DISC program have produced contradictory results. If my hon. friend himself knows what the results of the program will be on the Canadian economy, or knows people who know, then by all means I should like to hear from him, as a contribution to the body of knowledge presently being assembled.

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[Translation]

**FAMILY INCOME SECURITY****FAMILY ALLOWANCES—QUEBEC REPLY TO FEDERAL PROPOSALS**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us if the Quebec Premier has given some answer to his proposals with regard to the family allowances policy?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, not yet.

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[English]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****SECURITY OF MAIL AND TELEPHONES OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT—PROTECTION OF JOBS AND CAREERS OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO TESTIFY BEFORE COMMITTEE**

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of the statement he made in the House yesterday, following which he gave certain assurances at a press conference outside the House with respect to employees of the government feeling free to come forward to testify on the material contained in his statement yesterday. Can the Prime Minister in the House, on his own behalf and on behalf of all his cabinet ministers, give the House his assurance that no

[Mr. Jamieson.]

public servant who appears before the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections to testify will be fired or have his or her career in any way prejudiced as a result thereof?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this is rather like the kind of question about whether you have stopped beating your wife.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacInnis:** Have you started?

**Mr. Hees:** Give him a chance; he is going to need help here.

**Mr. Trudeau:** In so far as I can answer the question without any of the aforesaid implications being read into it, of course the assurance is yes. It is not the practice or policy of this government in any way to seek retribution against any people who testify before a parliamentary committee.

**Mr. Hees:** Except the Auditor General.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Prime Minister a supplementary question in view of the importance of the matter. Now that the subject has been referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections, and since the Prime Minister went beyond what he has just said at the press conference yesterday, when he gave his outright assurance and said that public servants would be commended if they came forward to tell of any such incidents, all I am trying to get from the Prime Minister is his assurance that if any civil servant does come forward he will not be fired or in any way have his career prejudiced.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. It seems to me that the hon. member is repeating the question. I may have missed something, but this appears to me to be the same question.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but with the greatest respect I did introduce a further element by specifically quoting what the Prime Minister said at his press conference yesterday. I wonder whether he might be permitted to reply, because the assurance I am requesting is extremely important.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am perfectly prepared to renew those statements and assurances. I would only hope that if the hearings before the committee show that the allegations of the hon. member are pure fabrication his seat will be at stake as a result.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. member rising on a point of order? Otherwise we should go on to the next question as we are running short of time.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, a point of order. I simply want to set the Prime Minister's mind at ease immediately by telling him that the Liberals have been after my seat