

Inquiries of the Ministry

cabinet to deal with foreign investment. The Prime Minister made note of the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce had announced a number of guiding principles of good corporate behaviour in Canada and the Prime Minister said that the response to these guide lines has provided valuable information and insight into the role and conduct of foreign owned subsidiary companies in Canada.

In view of the Prime Minister's statement may I ask whether it is his intention to appoint the Minister of Trade and Commerce as a member of this committee, in view of the work he is doing with reference to the guide lines for foreign subsidiaries in Canada?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my hon. friend for advising me on the best manner of constituting a committee of ministers but I will point out to him that this is a small committee and that it will report to the cabinet of which the Minister of Trade and Commerce is a member. The report of that committee will be considered in cabinet. I will point out also that there is an interdepartmental committee working with the task force on which the Department of Trade and Commerce will be represented. I think I can reassure the hon. member that all members of the cabinet will have an important part to play in this work.

Mr. Douglas: I wish to assure the Prime Minister that I was not trying to advise him on the cabinet. If I had, my recommendation would have been much more far reaching. I wish to ask him if the data which has been collected by the Minister of Trade and Commerce regarding the reactions to the guide lines of the various foreign subsidiaries will be made available to the cabinet committee and to the task force?

Mr. Pearson: Yes, it will indeed, Mr. Speaker, as well as data which has been collected by agencies of the government including the Economic Council of Canada.

Hon. Michael Starr (Ontario): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the exclusion of the Minister of Trade and Commerce from the task force under the chairmanship of the senior Minister without Portfolio, he does not think his views could be put forward in that committee at the same time as in the cabinet after the recommendations have been received?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will ask the hon. member whether he does not think that his question is argumentative?

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): I have a supplementary question which is not argumentative. Is the Prime Minister in agreement with the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The right hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that his question cannot be put in this way. An answer cannot be given as to the accuracy of a press report.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was not asking for an opinion on the accuracy of the statement. I am asking whether government policy was enunciated yesterday in San Francisco. I am quoting from the *Ottawa Journal* of January 25, where the Minister of Trade and Commerce was quoted as saying:

—some Canadians attitudes on foreign investment giving rise to conflicting reports in the United States. Canada welcomes foreign capital regardless of these doubt-provoking remarks to the contrary from time to time.

Were those remarks representative of government policy and were they made after consultation following the return of the prodigal son?

Mr. Pearson: In reply to the question of my hon. friend I will merely refer him to the old Chinese proverb that he is barking in the wrong camp.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to find out is in what camp this government is camping; is it the Gordon camp, the Pearson camp or indeed the finance camp?

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, we are all in the same camp.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—REPORTED
EXPULSION OF MEMBER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I wish to ask him whether it is correct that a few weeks ago a member of the Company of Young Canadians by the name of Peter Mussalem, after a disturbing series of court actions, was sentenced to