

*Inquiries of the Ministry***HOUSE OF COMMONS****PROTECTIVE STAFF—INCREASE IN HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I had intended to put my question to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Internal Economy, but he seems to have departed since I started rising so perhaps I can put it to the President of the Treasury Board who is also a member of that body.

In view of reports that have reached us to the effect that the members of the protective staff have been advised that their hours of work per week are to be increased without any increase in pay, could this matter be looked into and could arrangements be made for His Honour, the Speaker, to include a comment on it when he reports to the House later this day on another matter affecting the protective staff?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, I am unaware of the particular circumstances, as I am sure the other commissioners are, but I will be glad to look into this. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, I do not think the hon. member seriously expects the commissioner to examine this question and conclude it by today.

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**TOURISM****U.S. INSISTENCE ON INCREASE IN DUTY FREE ALLOWANCE ON GOODS PURCHASED BY CANADIANS—PROMOTION OF TRAVEL WITHIN CANADA**

**Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. With the renewal of the United States-Canada trade discussions expected soon, can the minister say whether the United States government is still insisting on Canada increasing the duty free allowance on goods that Canadian tourists bring back from the United States?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the negotiations have not resumed yet so it is too early to know what the position of the United States will be on this particular item at that time. Of course, my hon. friend knows that the Americans had identified as an irritant the fact that our allowances for tourists were lower than theirs in the first place, and had not been restored to the level they were in 1962 when we had to change them because of balance of payments difficulties. This was one of the irritants on which we had sympathy for the U.S. case.

**Mr. McCutcheon:** Mr. Speaker, recent figures indicate a many million dollar deficit in tourist account for Canada last year. In light of this, will the government now take measures so that air travel within Canada can become competitive with air travel overseas—in other words, a program to encourage Canadians to see Canada first?

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I want to observe first that the balance in tourism between Canada and the United States

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

is favourable to Canada, so that that is not a good argument to present to the Americans. On the subject of package programs for travelling in Canada as opposed to package programs for travelling abroad, I want to underline the fact that my office of tourism which has now an added domestic orientation has been working diligently in order to bring the first to the level of the second. I will be glad to send a note to the hon. member showing that some progress is being made in that direction. I will give him a copy of it.

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**TRADE****CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—DATE FOR RESUMPTION**

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. With regard to the discussions taking place, or about to be resumed soon, between Canada and the United States, can the minister say whether a date has been set for the next meeting or, if a date has not been set, can the minister say whether discussions are actively under way with a view to fixing a date for the next meeting at which these discussions will be continued?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** It all depends on how one defines "active". I can just confirm that there is no date fixed for the resumption of negotiations at this moment. As I keep repeating—

**Mr. Stanfield:** No date has been set for a meeting?

**Mr. Pepin:** No date has been set for a meeting.

**Mr. Stanfield:** No discussions?

**Mr. Pepin:** But contact has been maintained. Our position is along the lines suggested by the hon. member for Peace River who said the other day that we should be tough but soft at the same time. To summarize, we are being reasonable.

• (1130)

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Leader of the Opposition rising on a supplementary question?

**Mr. Stanfield:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can explain how negotiations are continuing when in fact there are no arrangements for meetings or no preparations for meetings.

**Mr. Pepin:** There are many ways of keeping contact with people if you have some imagination.

**An hon. Member:** Such as mental telepathy.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.