

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lundrigan: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, judging by the presence in the House of just a handful of ministers today it looks like there will be a lot more unemployment. I would like to say, that the attitude of the Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that he cannot engage in debate. The hon. member prefaces his supplementary by stating that he wants to say something. Unfortunately the rules provide that he may only ask a question and not make a statement. If he has a supplementary the Chair will allow the hon. member to ask it.

Mr. Lundrigan: I will not try to compete with the Prime Minister in being a smart-aleck.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

UNEMPLOYMENT—PLANS FOR PROVISION OF SUMMER
JOBS FOR QUEBEC STUDENTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of the fact that approximately 18 per cent of the student population in Quebec were unable to find jobs last summer and in view of the present circumstances in that province, can the Prime Minister state whether any plans have been made to rectify that situation this summer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Prime Minister could reply to the question of the hon. member. However, I suggest to hon. members that the type of questions they are now asking should normally be answered by a general statement. The questions are very general. They may be pertinent, relevant and important, but they are phrased in such a way that normally they should be replied to by way of a statement. Having said that, the Prime Minister might reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have no answer.

Mr. Speaker: There are a number of hon. members who have supplementaries, but perhaps we might return to those who have supplementaries in a short while.

Mr. MacInnis: I rise on a point of order. On a number of occasions it is the custom for the Chair to rule questions out of order. Does this not also apply to answers which are out of order? Should the Prime Minister not have been called to order on several of his answers today?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROJECTED TAKEOVER OF HOME OIL BY UNITED STATES
COMPANY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Energy, Mines and Resources arising out of his promise on Tuesday that he would keep the House informed with regard to the negotiations which are going on between Home Oil Company of Calgary and Ashland Oil Company of Kentucky. Has an agreement virtually been reached which will leave the ownership of the company mainly in Canadian hands but place virtual control in the hands of Ashland Oil Incorporated of Kentucky?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge agreements are either reached or not reached. There is no such thing as "virtually having been reached". I do not think I can do anything useful by disclosing the state of negotiations at this time. I will inform the House when I have something definite to report. In the meantime, I will continue to use my office and such authority as I have under the law to do what I can to maintain Home Oil as a Canadian Company.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On Tuesday, as recorded on page 2975 of *Hansard*, the minister stated:

I have urged upon them the desirability of maintaining a majority Canadian ownership and Canadian control in this company.

Has the minister been successful in assuring himself that there will be continued Canadian ownership and Canadian control of Home Oil Company?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, I have no way of so assuring myself. Such is the case to date. As I stated, I will continue to do my best to assure that this situation continues.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I note that the minister has used the word "authority". Has he sought advice from the legal officers to determine whether he or his department or the government has the authority to interfere with this sale? I am thinking of the number of shareholders of this company across Canada and the effect on them and the company. Has the minister sought advice from the legal officers on the use of the same authority he used in connection with Denison Mines involving a completely different commodity, uranium?

Mr. Greene: In the case of Denison Mines, Mr. Speaker, it has been indicated that legislation will be brought before the House with regard to the ownership of uranium in Canada. If my understanding of the law is correct, this House can do anything except make a man a woman.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: May I follow that up, Mr. Speaker? Now that the cat is out of the bag, is the government preparing legislation with regard to provincial fields where the federal government has no authority?

Mr. Greene: Mr. Speaker, any legislation that we propose will be within our authority and will be brought before the House in the proper manner.