Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Baldwin: The minister did not answer the last part of my question. Is it the intention of the government to first refer the subject matter of this bill, as with other repugnant bills, to a committee with a view to getting better legislation?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): No, Mr. Speaker. Neither is it a repugnant bill.

[Later:]

INCLUSION OF PROVISIONS TO DEAL WITH FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to the previous question directed to the Acting Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the statement that the competition bill is to be revised, I wonder whether the hon. gentleman, or the parliamentary secretary, can tell us whether there will be any proposals in the bill to deal with foreign ownership?

[Later:]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I did not catch the first part of the question asked by the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville. I cannot answer as to the general proposition he made, but I will bring the matter to the attention of my colleague directly he returns to Ottawa.

* * *

LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGED NEED FOR LEGISLATION PROHIBITING STRIKES BY EMPLOYEES IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Would the minister consider introducing into the House at once legislation withdrawing the right to strike in all essential services under federal jurisdiction and substituting the rule of law, and including in the legislation the telephone service and air traffic control?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should know that Air traffic control does not come within the responsibility of the Minister of Labour but under the public service. Whether or not we can do without telephone service over the next month depends, of course, entirely on how much we use it. As to whether I am going to bring in anti-labour legislation in this House to suit the wishes of the hon. gentleman, the answer is categorically no.

Mr. Hellyer: Does the minister not feel that ordinary citizens have some right to the continuous provision of essential services?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously the hon. member and the minister are anxious to embark on a debate, but I would not think this is the time for it.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY—STUDY OF OPTIONS OPEN TO CANADA IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising from the right hon. gentleman's announcement that a statement on government policy with regard to foreign capital will perhaps be made before the end of the year. Has the government under intensive study at this time the options that Canada would have open to it in its economic relations with the United States ranging from, say, a commodity agreement like the auto pact to a customs union as proposed by the Premier of British Columbia?

• (3:10 p.m.)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REASON FOR REMOVAL OF AEROVOX CANADA LIMITED FROM HAMILTON TO ANOTHER PROVINCE

Mr. Colin Gibson (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Did the policy of his department cause the removal of an industry from the city of Hamilton to a poor area of Canada? For instance, was an amount of money paid Aerovox Canada Limited, as the mayor of Hamilton claimed, if we are to believe the news report published yesterday in the Hamilton *Spectator*?

[English]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am ready to make the same effort and to answer in English; I hope I will be as clear as the question was. There is no doubt that the decision to close down the Aerovox plant in Hamilton was taken even before an application was made to my department.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which I address to the minister and also to the questioner. Is he aware of the fact that the question asked and the answer given are a reflection on Premier Regan and his administration?

* * *

[Translation]

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Has the French version of the report of the Senate Committee on Poverty been tabled?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I did not understand the question. Would the hon. member mind repeating it?