

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that he may have a point of order or a point of debate, but that is not a question of privilege. I will return to the matter in a moment after having recognized the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member. He will have to wait for a moment as the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond is rising on a point of order.

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

**An hon. Member:** Here we go again.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Settle down.

**An hon. Member:** You are shouting again.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, my point of order arises from the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, made without the benefit of prepared notes, and the support given those remarks by the minister now in charge of mines.

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

**Mr. MacInnis:** The Prime Minister indicated that the situation referred to by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre regarding Sable Island comes within the portfolio of the acting minister. For two weeks now this House has been bandying about the question of whether the government is breaking the law or, putting it in the words of the Prime Minister, reneging or defaulting. The minister now responsible for offshore mineral rights has indicated that the government is willing to overlook two other acts which support the contention that Sable Island belongs to the province of Nova Scotia. One act is—

• (2:30 p.m.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has sought the floor during the question period to raise a point of order and he should indicate as quickly as possible what the point of order is so that the Chair may make a ruling.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, it is very simple. The minister is now prepared to tell the House that the government is prepared to deny two pieces of legislation, one being Bill C-135 which indicates that the government gave acquisition powers to Devco to purchase land and properties beneath the sea adjacent to the island of Cape Breton.

**Mr. Jamieson:** He may not be offshore but he is adrift.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order please. This is obviously debate and not a point of order. The hon. member is debating with the minister concerned or other members the situation relating to the question raised originally. I would not think the matter can be debated as a point of order.

**Mr. MacInnis:** On the point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member will have to raise another point of order because I have to make the

### *Inquiries of the Ministry*

ruling that this is not a legitimate point of order. I am sure the hon. member will agree with me on that point.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Mr. Speaker, I would refer to the Canada Elections Act and the indication by the minister that he is prepared to violate that act which places Sable Island within the voting area of Nova Scotia and in the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Again I suggest to the hon. member that this is debate.

[Translation]

The Chair now recognizes the hon. member for Témiscamingue, and thanks him for his patience.

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### INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who is also Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the publicity we hear day in and day out to the effect that "the hops make all the difference", and especially that seedless hops are superior, is the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who is in charge of trade, taking steps to ensure the sale abroad of the total Canadian production of hops with seeds?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Charlevoix.

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### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### ALLEGED REPRISALS AGAINST UNITED STATES— SUGGESTED MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT NIXON

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, we are informed that the government is retaliating against the U.S. following the 10 per cent surcharge on imports imposed by President Nixon. If such is the case, does the government intend to use such measures? In the affirmative, I would ask the right hon. Prime Minister if it would not be better, in order to avoid economic war, that he met soon with President Nixon in order to discuss this 10 per cent surcharge as the Canadian ministers and high officials did not succeed in convincing the U.S. administration to drop the surcharge?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Once again I thank the hon. member of the opposition for the confidence he shows in me, and I shall take his suggestion into consideration.

**Mr. Asselin:** I would like to ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Does the government intend to retaliate against the United States, following the refusal by the American administration to abolish the 10 per cent surtax?