

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The second supplementary asked by the hon. member is, of course, a very important question, but I would think it is rather broad in scope and would invite a statement which ought normally to be made on motions or during the budget debate.

INQUIRY AS TO EXTENSION OF ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION TO FARMERS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): As a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Finance whether he is going to extend the provision for accelerated depreciation to primary producers of farm products, more specifically grain, since they are being equally hurt?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question will have to await publication of the regulations pursuant to the bill that will be introduced.

Mr. Gleave: Did I understand the minister to say that this depends on the promulgation of the regulations? Has the policy not been decided?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The policy is decided; the hon. member will have to await the publication of the regulations.

[Translation]

POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES RESPECTING ACCEPTANCE OF CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member for Témiscamingue rising for a supplementary?

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

In view of the number of agreements to be entered into with the United States concerning agriculture and other subjects, and of the fact that I am just back from the United States, could the minister—

An hon. Member: Welcome to Canada!

Mr. Caouette: I went into a health clinic, for the information of my colleagues.

I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the American dollar is accepted without question in Canada. Could an agreement be entered into with the United States government whereby the Canadian dollar would receive the same treatment in the United States?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe acceptance of the dollar, American or Canadian, depends on the reactions of shop keepers.

[Mr. Hees.]

[English]

TRADE

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR LIST OF AMERICAN COMPANIES MAKING USE THEREOF

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce a question I have asked once or twice before which he has not yet answered. Is the minister now in a position to inform parliament and the Canadian people of the names of the number of firms in the United States that have registered for DISC and are carrying on business under that scheme now or propose to do so?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my answer is the same as on the previous occasion. I have a number of names of United States companies which have decided to use the DISC facility. As to some of them I have firm information because the Canadian subsidiary has informed us; in other cases it is hearsay based on articles read in newspapers. There is no scientific character at all to the list I have and consequently I will not provide the list that I have now.

Mr. Lewis: Is the minister in a position to inform the House whether the number is the same as he mentioned during a speech some weeks ago, less than 1,500, I believe? Has the number remained the same or does he know whether it has increased to any extent?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have not been informed of any addition to the previous number but I will check.

Mr. Lewis: In view of the fact that this is a very important matter for Canada—I am sure the minister shares that view—can he inform the House whether he has made official requests of the United States authorities to make such a list available at least with respect to those corporations that have subsidiaries in Canada, and if he has made such a request what has the answer been?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, some unofficial moves have been made to obtain these names and have not been successful.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I have a further, very short, supplementary. I knew there had been unofficial moves taken because that was suggested to us on previous occasions. I am asking the minister whether he is ready now to make a formal request for that list so that Canadians will know exactly what firms in Canada are likely to be affected, or is he still of the view that he does not wish to make such a formal request?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, my parents have taught me it is not wise to ask for something you are not sure of receiving. I have already indicated to the House on two or three occasions that we were looking at ways and means by which we could obtain the information on DISC users from the customs import applications.