

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

With reference to the statement made yesterday by the U.S. Under-Secretary of the Treasury to the effect that the American government was ready to undertake next week some new trade negotiations to which would be invited the representatives of the Canadian government, is the Prime Minister in a position to say whether he has decided to send a delegation to the United States as a result of that invitation?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I did not understand what that invitation is and what the subject matter of the negotiations would be.

**Mr. La Salle:** I refer to trade negotiations with Canada next week.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, once again the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce met at the beginning of last week with the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and they held negotiations and discussions. I do not know to which new meeting the member is referring.

[English]

UNITED STATES IMPORT SURTAX—EFFECT ON FUTURE  
CANADIAN CO-OPERATION RESPECTING NATURAL  
RESOURCES

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question which is supplementary to the original questions asked. The United States Assistant Secretary of the Treasury has suggested that the question of continental energy policy should not be discussed in dealing with the surtax. Can the Prime Minister tell the House whether or not this is acceptable to the government or whether the government intends to make clear to the United States that the continuance of the surtax will jeopardize future co-operation in respect of resources and raw materials.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS OF CANADIANS WORKING  
IN UNITED STATES

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

As a new Unemployment Insurance Act now applies in Canada and the rates have been changed considerably, will Canadian workers now employed in the States of Maine and New Hampshire be eligible for comparable benefits?

[English]

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, negotiations are now going on with both those states in order to make our plans reciprocal. I will report fully before the end of the week concerning the results of the negotiations.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

INFORMATION ON AGREEMENT WITH  
UNITED STATES

**Mr. Speaker:** Would the hon. member wait just a moment? I believe that the hon. member for Bellechasse has a supplementary.

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I ask the minister whether officials of his department have made the necessary arrangements in order to provide information on the agreement made with the United States, so that Canadian workers may have access to the benefits of the agreement should the occasion arise?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are now doing exactly what the hon. member has suggested.

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• (3:10 p.m.)

[English]

FINANCE

PROPOSAL FROM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND  
THAT CANADA REVALUE DOLLAR UPWARD

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In the absence of information from the Prime Minister late last week and early this week, can the minister advise the House whether the Canadian government received any proposals from the Secretary General of the International Monetary Fund that Canada revalue upward its dollar by 11 per cent or 12 per cent and, if so, what was the Canadian government's reaction to that proposal which was reported in important circles during the weekend?

**Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it was not really a proposal at all—

**Mr. Stanfield:** Oh, no?

**Mr. Benson:** The IMF, as is the case with many international bodies, is looking at the particular problem and analysing it, and out of their analysis came some figures in a working paper which was not officially transmitted to governments but was really just put forward by the Secretary General of the IMF.

**Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West):** Would the minister advise the House, since the Prime Minister did not seem to have the information, whether Canada advanced or disclosed any new initiatives with regard to the regularization of the situation in the international monetary field, particularly toward the re-establishment of a stable, international, fixed scheme of foreign exchange?

**Mr. Benson:** The best thing I might do in answer to the question is to table the communiqué of the meeting of the Group of Ten which I chaired last Sunday.