

hon. members, that we are entering upon a debate rather than asking questions and giving answers.

Mr. Woolliams: I should like to ask one more supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Chair indicated a moment ago that we should try to complete the first round of questioning. If hon. members want to pursue this matter later for the rest of the question period, that is up to them. The hon. member for York South.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROPOSED TAKEOVER OF ACKLANDS LIMITED BY UNITED STATES COMPANY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In his absence last week the Acting Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, was asked some questions regarding the proposed takeover of Acklands, Limited of Winnipeg, Canada's largest automotive supply wholesaler, by a United States firm from Atlanta. One of the answers that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration gave on September 12 was that company representatives were ready to meet with the minister and discuss the takeover. May I ask the minister whether such a meeting has been arranged and when it will take place?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, it is true that such a meeting has been arranged. It will take place tomorrow afternoon and I and my officials expect to meet with the leading representatives of the company.

Mr. Lewis: Would the minister assure the House that in his meeting with the company representatives he will investigate the takeover proposal in accordance with the criteria set in the bill concerning foreign investment and take steps to prevent the takeover unless the benefits and interests of Canadians are protected?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I shall certainly be discussing with the officials the whole question of the significant benefit to Canada of this proposal, but as the hon. member must know, Bill C-132 is not yet the law of Canada, though I hope, as I know other members do, that it will be very shortly.

Mr. Lewis: In view of the fact that there are precedents, for example, Home Oil and Denison Mines, where the federal government did take steps to halt a takeover, may I ask the minister whether he can assure the House that he will request that the takeover be halted until a full inquiry is made as to Canada's benefit and, if necessary, until Bill C-132 becomes the law of Canada?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I think my conversation tomorrow will give me a better opportunity of judging what action, if any, should be taken.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RECOGNITION OF REGIME IN CHILE—GOVERNMENT'S POSITION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the right hon. Prime Minister but, first of all, I want to congratulate him for having been reconfirmed in the good graces of his partisans over the weekend.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): I thank the Liberals for applauding me with such frenzy.

Mr. Speaker, here is my question. Since the bloody overthrow of the new democrats in Chile, has that country asked the Canadian government to recognize the new regime?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the leader of the creditiste party for his kind words. In reply to his question I must say that the Chilean regime has in fact asked the Canadian government to grant it diplomatic recognition, but we have yet to give an answer because we wish to consider the matter further.

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[English]

ENERGY

OIL EXPORT TAX—ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSED COMPROMISE BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a further supplementary question as a follow-up to what I asked earlier and the answers given by the minister. The minister stated that a compromise was made at the convention in regard to the implementation of the 40 cents surtax. I am not concerned about the convention. What I want to know is whether this compromise is now accepted by the government, what was the compromise, and how much money Alberta will get back from this tax that was imposed without consultation?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I think I would have to refer the hon. gentleman to the resolution passed at the convention. I am not sure whether it would be in order to do so here, but I will be glad to bring it to the hon. member's attention.

Mr. Nielsen: We do not intend to let you do that.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I believe I could table the resolution under the terms of Standing Order 41(2).

● (1500)

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, my question is a very simple one and can be put with great ease. Was the compromise suggested at the convention accepted as government policy? A yes or no will answer that question.