

Inquiries of the Ministry

Since conflicting accounts are reaching us from Niamey and since the Prime Minister is certainly informed by the representative of the Canadian government, could he tell the House whether information he has received allows him to guarantee that a cultural agency will be formed at the end of the conference in Niamey?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Obviously, I cannot give this guarantee, Mr. Speaker. The issue depends on the discussions that are going on over there. Canada's position is quite simple. I hope hon. members of the opposition will support it and will agree that only Canada, a sovereign state, can participate as a member in international conferences.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Prime Minister.

Can he tell the House whether it is true that Canada has categorically turned down the French proposal, which would mean that she would not participate in the cultural agency that would be established?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if I can answer this question without knowing exactly which French proposal is being referred to. Several have been made. Indeed, amendments and subamendments have been proposed. We would have to know which one the hon. member has in mind.

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE**APPROVED BREATHALYZER CONTAINER**

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice. Will his quest for an approved container under the breathalyzer section of the Criminal Code soon be over?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): We are still looking, Mr. Speaker.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**TORONTO—CLOSING OF DUNLOP PLANT—
CO-OPERATION WITH PROVINCE IN
FINDING ALTERNATIVE**

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the discussion that the minister had last Thursday with officials of the trade union from

[Mr. Asselin.]

Dunlop Tire and his subsequent telegram to the Dunlop Company on Friday morning requesting company officials to enter into discussion with provincial and federal counterparts to determine whether the plant should remain open, I wonder if the minister has received an answer to that telegram and, if not, what further steps is he planning to take?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): The telegram which I sent, Mr. Speaker, was directed to the Minister of Trade and Development and the Minister of Labour of the government of Ontario indicating to them the representations I had received from the union officials and offering the co-operation of federal officials if, in the exercise of their jurisdiction, they decided a feasibility study or a study of the economics of the plant was justified at this point. To date, I have not received a reply.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In his discussions with the provincial ministers is the minister making the suggestion or raising the question of the desirability of having legislation at either the provincial or federal level which would make it compulsory for companies to show economic justification to employees for the closing down of a firm?

Mr. MacEachen: My communications did not cover that point, Mr. Speaker.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**SPECIAL AREAS—DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Can the minister assure the House that the old pork barrel system will not be used in designating funds—

An hon. Member: Newfoundland.

Mr. McGrath: We know all about it in Newfoundland; we have a Liberal government there.

An hon. Member: Good point.

Mr. McGrath: Can the minister assure the House that the old pork barrel system will not be used in designating funds under the minister's special areas program—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member realizes that a question cannot be asked in those terms. Perhaps it might be rephrased.