

Inquiries of the Ministry

was read so attentively by members of the opposition. If the hon. member would read further in the speech he would see that I talked about the problem of transportation in the Maritimes, though not that particular aspect.

Mr. Macquarrie: It was a most sensitive and sensible speech but I wonder if the Prime Minister would consult with the Premier of Prince Edward Island and reopen that most important subject? That would make a good second chapter.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRSCANADIAN REPRESENTATION ON UNITED KINGDOM
DELEGATION NEGOTIATING ENTRY INTO
COMMON MARKET

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Has Canada a representative directly attached to the United Kingdom delegation which is negotiating the terms of Great Britain's entry into the European Common Market?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, but we have representatives accredited to the European Economic Community and to the United Kingdom. Between these two I think we do quite well.

Mr. Woolliams: If you do it like everything else it will be a failure.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRYPOSSIBLE SALE OF SOGEFOR LIMITED TO
FOREIGN INTERESTS

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the fact that the General Investment Corporation has announced the sale of one of its subsidiaries, namely Sogefor Limited, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether the government intends to purchase it, or whether he will announce that steps will be taken to ensure that a typically Canadian company does not fall into foreign hands?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member was kind enough to send me word, a few minutes ago, that he would put that question to me. Unfortunately, I have not yet had time to find the components of an answer. I shall merely say that this is the first time I have heard of this sale, but it would seem that if the General Investment Corporation wishes to sell its subsidiary, there is no reason at first glance why the Canadian government should buy it.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRSBANNING OF SALE OF POTTERY PRODUCTS WITH
LEAD GLAZING

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that one Montreal child died this year and another suffered serious lead poisoning by drinking from a handmade earthenware jug, and in view of the further fact that the United States has now banned some similar Canadian and Mexican products as being too dangerous, will the minister take action for the immediate removal of such products from store shelves in order to avoid possible Christmas tragedies?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have been working on the development of a standard for the lead glazing of pottery in order to avoid a recurrence of the tragic event in Montreal a year ago and we expect to announce regulations in due course. If the hon. member has evidence of certain pottery items available now having a high lead content in the glaze, I hope she will bring it to my attention so that proper and speedy action may be taken if required.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister if the fact that such Canadian products are banned in the United States is not sufficient evidence to take action?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's supplementary question is argumentative.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRSCANADIAN ATTITUDE TO TREATY SIGNED BY POLAND
AND WEST GERMANY

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government of Canada taken a position with respect to the treaty just signed between Poland and West Germany?

Mr. Woolliams: This will be a good answer—he has it written out.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we welcome this treaty—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I am sure that hon. members opposite will agree that this is an important question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

Mr. MacInnis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Questions in this House are supposed to be of