

INDUSTRY**INQUIRY AS TO STEPS TO INCREASE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTIVITY**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that productivity in Canada has remained stationary during the past 12 months, a situation similar to that which brought about the present economic crisis in Great Britain, does the government intend to introduce any measures to induce industry to correct this situation before we recess for the Christmas holiday, in view of the fact that we will not be returning until the latter part of January?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Well, Mr. Speaker, once again I am afraid I am not able to accept completely the premise on which the question was based, but if there are any additional measures to those being taken in this field they will be announced as soon as possible. I am not sure where my hon. friend got the information that we are not coming back until the third week in January.

Mr. Hees: As a supplementary question, would the Prime Minister do me the honour of getting in touch with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and he will receive exactly the information I received, which will tell him my statement is correct.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should put his question.

Mr. Hees: Then, Mr. Speaker, may I continue with my question. Would the Prime Minister not agree that whatever the government has been doing during the past 12 months it has been singularly unsuccessful in improving productivity, and would the government not now take action to correct this situation?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for York South.

[Later:]

Mr. E. Nasserden (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister in respect of an earlier question regarding the economic crisis. Has the economic crisis in Canada become so much more severe over the week end that members of the cabinet have decided to camouflage their identity?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, there is no economic crisis.

UNITED NATIONS**VIET NAM—PROPOSED DISCUSSION IN SECURITY COUNCIL**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister and ask if he can inform the house whether Canada has participated in any discussions at the United Nations or elsewhere concerning the suggestion that the problems in respect of the war in Viet Nam be brought before the security council. If so, what has been Canada's position on this subject?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): I think, Mr. Speaker, there have been some informal discussions among members of the security council on this matter. I believe also some consideration has been given by the Secretary General to the possibility of representatives of North Viet Nam appearing. I shall be glad to take my hon. friend's question as notice and perhaps be able to give a more specific reply tomorrow.

[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS**APPLICATION TO STAFF OF BILINGUAL BONUS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue in his capacity of President of the Treasury Board.

Did the minister receive a request signed by hon. members from all parties in the house, as well as by parliament employees, asking that the 7 per cent bonus be granted to bilingual employees? In the affirmative, is it the intention of the minister to comply with that request?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Revenue and President of the Treasury Board): To my knowledge I have not received such a petition. I should point out once again that the matter is one for Mr. Speaker, and not for me.