

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

## TRADE

## NICKEL—EFFECT OF STRIKE ON EXPORTS

**Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, the government is anxious and indeed eager to see that the Economic Council of Canada is as productive and useful as it can be. The hon. gentleman will appreciate that there have to be limits placed on attempts to do all the good things we want to do right here and now. The Economic Council of Canada has accepted the fact that it is not possible right now to achieve all the things it would like to achieve.

**Mr. Baldwin:** I have a supplementary question in relation to the last part of my original question. In view of the fact that substantial salary increases have been and are being given to senior officers in departments and government institutions is it the intention of the government to introduce a proposal for a comparative increase in the salary of the Auditor General, an officer of this House and Parliament?

**Mr. Drury:** Consideration will be given to that, Mr. Speaker.

## PESTICIDES

## DISPOSAL BY CROWN ASSETS DISPOSAL CORPORATION

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister relating to the statement he made in the House on November 3 concerning restrictions on the use of DDT. In view of the fact that Crown Assets Disposal Corporation has called for public tenders for the purchase of 5,000 DDT bombs and 500 pounds of pesticides, the reason for the sale being the high content of DDT, will the Prime Minister request the Minister of Supply and Services to withdraw this call for tenders and have the materials returned to the manufacturer?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The question as asked is not in order.

**Mr. Benjamin:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I might rephrase my question. What the government is doing is in direct contradiction of the statement made in the House a few days ago. I request your indulgence and I ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Supply and Services whether they will consider withdrawing this call for public tenders on this product the government intends to ban?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** I will discuss the matter with the minister, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Calgary Centre):** Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce tell the House what is the over-all decline in our nickel exports as a result of the strike at the International Nickel Company of Canada, and will he indicate how much in the way of permanent markets we are likely to lose as a result?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I suggest to the hon. member that his question asks for detailed information which should not normally be either asked for or given at this time. The second part of the question may be in order, but only to the extent that the hon. member is asking the minister to make a statement on motions. He may want to reply to that part of the question.

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Should I make a statement on it, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not my job to answer questions.

## INDUSTRY

## AUTOMOBILE PACT—REMOVAL OF PROTECTION BENEFICIAL TO CANADA

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the question I intend to put to the congenial Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will be in order. In view of impending meetings in the United States with a view to removing from the U.S.-Canada car pact certain beneficial protections as far as Canada is concerned, will the minister assure the House that he will not endorse or condone the removal of these protective features?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** I do not think this would be the proper approach. In conversations of this kind I think you must stand on principles that you think are worthwhile, but you should be flexible, also open to suggestions for improvements.

**Mr. Hales:** Is it the intention of the minister to agree to having original replacement parts incorporated in the agreement?

**Mr. Pepin:** This might be part of the conversations. I want to repeat that I treat the whole thing very seriously, and I consider