

session so that the parliamentary situation in Newfoundland can be properly resolved.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Prince Edward Hastings. Perhaps the Chair might recognize the hon. member for St. John's East and then the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister. As His Excellency's principal adviser, has the Prime Minister been called upon to give advice regarding the constitutional situation in Newfoundland?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have not been called upon to do that, Mr. Speaker, neither by the Minister of Transport nor by His Excellency or by the Queen. But if the opposition is advancing the interesting constitutional theory that I should be telling the Lieutenant-Governor of a province what he should be doing, I will apply this to Newfoundland in the coming months.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Could the right hon. gentleman identify to the House the gentleman to whom he referred on several occasions merely as "Buster" in his impassioned plea for funds delivered to the faithful in Montreal on Sunday night.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that this question cannot be asked.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, May I ask a supplementary. I will rephrase my question. Is the purpose of this whole exercise to make the Prime Minister out as a tough guy instead of the dilettante dabbler in social issues the country has known him as. Answer that one.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.

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TRADE

U.S. DISC LEGISLATION—CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION TO COUNTRIES

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In the discussions he and his officials have had with their counterparts in the United States, has the United States government indicated to him or to his departmental officials whether the DISC program will be of general application to all countries or whether it will be applicable only to those countries which in the opinion of the United States government are subsidizing their exports through tax concessions or other means.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am not absolutely sure. My impression was that it was general.

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Douglas: Mr. Speaker, I assume the minister has discussed this very important matter with the United States authorities and surely he can give us something more definitive.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member was recognized for the purpose of asking a question.

U.S. DISC LEGISLATION—POSSIBLE USE OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES UNDER GATT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask first of all whether the minister can give us something more definite and, secondly, whether the minister or his department are studying whether or not under GATT we would be entitled in Canada to use countervailing duties in order to cope with the DISC program, if it is of general application.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the first part I said I had assumed it was general. The thought expressed by my hon. friend just now is one which caught me by surprise. Let me repeat, I assumed, and still do, that DISC is universal in application. With regard to our opinion on the DISC program with reference to the GATT philosophy and regulations, we have said from the beginning that the DISC program was not according to GATT.

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[Translation]

MANPOWER

LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAMS—SUGGESTED MODIFICATION OF WEEKLY REMUNERATION CEILING

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration but, in his absence, I will direct it to the Prime Minister.

Is he prepared to tell the House whether the government intends to modify again its local initiatives program so that people would earn more money by working than by remaining idle and drawing unemployment insurance?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Unemployment Insurance Act was passed during this session. I do not know whether the member voted against it but we do not intend to modify it.

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[English]

TRADE

U.S. DISC LEGISLATION—POSSIBLE USE OF COMPARABLE PROGRAM BY CANADA

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce whether in the course of discussion of his package of irritants he has determined the attitude of the United States toward Canada adopting a policy comparable to their DISC program. Has the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce asked how the United States administration would regard the adoption by