

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member is mistaken when he speaks of the role of what he calls "a security group". The RCMP operates in Quebec as in other provinces, as a federal police force, under certain circumstances. There is no other security force, to use the hon. member's words, than that one, which operates in all provinces.

As for a report to the cabinet referred to by the hon. member, there has never been any; there has certainly not been any since the recent developments. I am not speaking about October 1970, of course.

As for the question asking whether we want to co-operate with the Quebec government, the answer is yes, of course. I also stated in the interview mentioned by the hon. member that there was no question of having the same type of co-operation as then. In October 1970, the Quebec government and the city of Montreal had asked for the help of the armed forces. I made it clear that there was now no similar request, nor any discussion on the matter. This confirms what I said in my first answer, that Premier Bourassa acted with firmness and stability in the circumstances, and that the country is grateful to him.

• (1420)

[English]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Will the Prime Minister undertake to make a statement in the House on Tuesday next that there will be a summit conference between himself and the Prime Minister of Quebec on restoring amicable arrangements?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Obviously the question is at least procedurally questionable.

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TRADE

UNITED STATES DISC PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR LIST OF AMERICAN COMPANIES MAKING USE THEREOF

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who was scheduled to be here but who I am sure is away for a good reason, may I ask either the Prime Minister or the Secretary of State for External Affairs, whichever one may be able to deal with the matter, whether it is possible for the government now to inform parliament with respect to the names of the 1,500 or so United States corporations which are using the DISC program or have registered for the DISC program?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce is meeting today with a delegation of Russian officials who are here in Canada and he therefore cannot be in the House. The list of companies which have applied for DISC registration in the United States is not yet available for public scrutiny. Therefore we have not been able to obtain a copy of it.

CANADA-UNITED STATES—DATE FOR RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSIONS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, or any minister, the following question. In view of a report that Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance Grey has stated that decisions in Washington are likely to determine the access of Canadian exports to foreign markets for the next decade, can we be informed, in light of this serious statement by a senior government official, whether trade negotiations between Canada and the United States have been recommenced and, if not, whether a date has been set for these negotiations to start?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Some changes have taken place in the official structure in the United States within the last few days, as the hon. member will be aware. It does not therefore seem prudent to be commencing official negotiations at this time.

REPORTED INVESTIGATIONS BY UNITED STATES INTO CERTAIN IMPORTS FROM CANADA—SOURCE OF INITIATIVE

Mr. David Lewis (York South): I appreciate that perhaps the parliamentary secretary is at some disadvantage, but there is another question which he might answer or take as notice. It arises out of a report that investigations have been initiated in Washington into a number of Canadian imports such as aluminum, potato granules and sulphur as well as tires from the Michelin company in Nova Scotia. Arising out of this report, can the parliamentary secretary inform the House whether the department is aware of these initiatives to investigate these products and, if so, whether the initiative came from some government department in Washington or from private companies that are being hurt by our exports; and what is the purpose of the investigation?

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): The products mentioned by the leader of the New Democratic Party are dealt with in different ways. If we take aluminum as an example, there has been a request for anti-dumping duties to be applied. This request came from a private company in the United States. The government of the United States is under an obligation to investigate and to respond to the charge. So it is not an action that has been invoked by the government itself.

The position of the United States government regarding the Michelin Tire Company would be entirely different, because it would involve countervailing duties that they might consider applicable against the Michelin company, which would be an action taken by the United States government. But there is no indication—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems to me that we are going a little far afield at this point. I see three members who are seeking to ask supplementaries. I will recognize one hon. member and then the hon. member for Témiscamingue, and return to the supplementaries later. The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands.