

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

• (3:00 p.m.)

The reason I say we should not play politics in that regard is that this practice has always worked well in the past. I am sorry that a certain premier is using this information, which up to now has been held confidential, as political ploy.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, when you are able to restore order I should like to put my point.

**An hon. Member:** Say something, David.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I suggest to you that it is not conducive to the dignity of Parliament—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:**—for the federal Prime Minister to make the kind of statement he has about a premier of a province.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Lewis:** I suggest to Your Honour and to the right hon. gentleman that the premier of that province is as anxious about the unemployment situation as the Prime Minister has been and that in view of the actions of the government the premier is probably a great deal more concerned.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I note that the right hon. Prime Minister wishes to rise on the same point of order. It seems to me we have been dealing with the same point of order since the first question was asked this afternoon. I really do not think we have achieved very much by these exchanges. I would suggest to hon. members that perhaps we might try to go to a subject other than the one we have been debating for the last ten minutes, that is, whether a certain meeting should be held on a certain date or should not be held on that date. Questions have been asked and answers have been given, but it does not seem to me that the questions or the answers this afternoon have been conducive to settling the matter. Perhaps hon. members will be in a better mood tomorrow and we might then make a little better headway. If we continue in this tone I really do not think we will achieve anything.

I still have not had the opportunity to recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue for the purpose of asking a question, and the hon. member for Charlevoix, in a spirit of co-operation with the Chair, gave up his opportunity to ask a supplementary question. I hope that eventually we can give other hon. members who want to ask questions on other subjects an opportunity to do so and forget for the moment at least the point of order.

(Translation)

I think that, in all fairness, I should allow the hon. member for Charlevoix to put his supplementary. After that, I shall give the floor to the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

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**INDUSTRY****PULP AND PAPER—MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DIFFICULTIES**

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** I thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to put a supplementary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

A while ago he said the Minister of Finance had announced, in the budget, measures designed to remedy the situation I described.

As those measures did not have the expected results and Domtar is going to lay off 650 employees, could the minister tell us whether the government will soon announce another program to give the required help to save those industries, especially the Quebec pulp and paper industry?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member seems to think that the dollar reevaluation is the sole reason for these difficulties. It is one among several others. I indicated that certain steps had been taken and that a meeting between government officials and the industry was scheduled. Obviously I welcome suggestions from the hon. member. Usually in this House hon. members suggest that I should close our door to imports and subsidize exports. This is rather difficult in view of our commercial interests and our commitments under GATT and other agreements.

**Mr. Asselin:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Charlevoix is rising on a point of order. After dealing with that point of order, I will recognize the hon. member for Témiscamingue.

**Mr. Asselin:** Mr. Speaker, oftentimes in this House when opposition members ask government members what programs they have in mind to correct a situation, they ask us what we would suggest. I should point out to the hon. minister who has just given me this answer that the Canadian people elected this government so that it could take decisions and govern.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a point of order. The hon. member for Témiscamingue.

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**FINANCE****POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PRICE OF GOLD**

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the difficult economic situation now existing in Canada, is the hon. minister or the government consid-