

I would also point out that with the pricing schedules for oil and gas included in this government's budget, the burden on the Canadian consumer up to 1984 is \$40 billion less than the budget of the former government.

I realize the question will have to be taken as notice, but I would ask the honourable senator whether he would be prepared to table the details of the calculation by which he arrived at the \$40 billion figure.

**Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Government):** Honourable senators, the question just put by Senator Balfour is similar to a question put by Senator Marshall yesterday. I undertook then to try to get the necessary details.

### INDUSTRY

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES AGREEMENT ON AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

**Hon. G. I. Smith:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State for Economic Development relating to the Canada-U.S. auto pact. Can the minister inform the Senate whether Chrysler Canada Ltd. and American Motors (Canada) Limited are expected to meet the production to sales ratio which is provided for in the Canada-U.S. auto pact this year? If they are not expected to meet that requirement, has the government in mind any action in relation thereto?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development):** Honourable senators, there has been some speculation in the press that that may not happen. I have also noted that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, who has more direct responsibility for this than I do, has made some comments about the situation recently. While I can remember some of those remarks, I think it would be better to take the question as notice so that I can give my honourable friend complete and accurate information.

**Senator Smith:** I certainly appreciate that assurance, and I shall look forward to having that complete and accurate information in the reasonable future.

Is there any satisfactory guarantee of the medium- and long-term integrity of the provisions of the auto pact if it should be—and I am not asserting that it is at the moment—that two such companies as those just named can disregard it and suffer no adverse consequence so far as the Government of Canada is concerned?

● (1430)

**Senator Olson:** That perhaps is not the kind of question that I should take as notice as it does not call for any detailed or technical information. What it does is to call for an expression of opinion as to whether or not there will be some problems in the event that we fall short of some of the targets under the auto pact.

I remind my honourable friend that there is a prohibition in the Question Period against asking a minister to express an opinion on policy. A minister can be asked what the policy is, but not what his opinion might be.

In any event, I will not get into that for the moment. I shall refer the question to the minister directly involved for a more detailed answer.

**Senator Smith:** I thank the honourable minister. I was prepared to meet him on his assertion, but I am glad it is not necessary.

### GRAIN

#### SALES TO U.S.S.R.

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Honourable senators, I have a question for the Minister of State responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board.

In view of the reported impending shortage of wheat and other grains throughout the entire world, would the minister inform us as to the present status of the Canadian embargo on sales of wheat to the U.S.S.R.?

**Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board):** Honourable senators, I really do not have very much to add to the statement I made on this question on July 16 last. The statement at that time was that the policy of the Canadian government with regard to the shipment of grain to the Soviet Union is to ship into that market at normal and traditional levels, and not to agree to any fixed ceiling for the present year.

The former government went along with the partial embargo on the sale of grain to the Soviet Union. We as a nation, because of that policy, placed ourselves in an inferior position in relation to the record sales of other exporting countries. Our grain producers thought that we should not stay in that inferior position, with the result that there has been a change in policy.

However, it is not the intention of the Canadian government that that policy should result in the sale of quantities of grain into that market in excess of normal and traditional levels. In other words, we are not endeavouring to multiply our sales in that market. It is important that we should no longer be in an inferior position, so we are following the policy that I enunciated in July. I feel it is a policy that, in all of the circumstances, is a reasonable one.

We appreciate the need to send the Soviet Union a message that aggression in Afghanistan is not warranted and not supported by the Canadian government. However, we feel that our grain producers should have access to that market in the normal way, as we believe the wheat producers in most other, if not all other, exporting countries do.

#### GRAINS TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATOR—APPOINTMENT

**Hon. Stanley Haidasz:** Can the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board inform the chamber as to whether the Government of Canada has made a decision on the appointment of a Grains Transport Co-ordinator?

**Hon. Hazen Argue (Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board):** There has been no replacement as yet for Dr.