

look at the results which flow from intensive discussions with the provinces and many municipalities.

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NUCLEAR ENERGY

STATUS OF CANDU REACTOR SALE TO MEXICO

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. During the time that the National Energy Program has been in place and the minister has been directing his efforts toward redressing some of the very serious difficulties which have been created by the program—and we hope that we will hear some answers tonight, some things which will redress some of the problems—there has been another sector of the Canadian energy industry which has been in serious difficulty, that is, the Candu, or the Canadian nuclear industry system. The Romanian reactor deal has been lost, and now it appears as though the Mexican reactor deal is doomed. Does the Prime Minister know what is the status of our potential sale to Mexico of the Candu reactor? Does he have any idea what the impact of the loss of that sale will be on the Canadian nuclear industry?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I do not believe the hon. member is stating the facts correctly when he says that the Romanian deal has been lost. There have been some economic difficulties in Romania, as we know, but that does not mean that the contract has been lost. The Canadian bid is still there, the contract is still there, and that reactor has not been lost any more than the Mexican one has. In the case of the Mexican government, I understand that it has delayed the date of decision and purchase, but we on this side are not considering those contracts lost.

FUTURE OF INDUSTRY

Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Prime Minister. I have to say that all reports we on this side are able to obtain indicate that indeed both those sales are doomed. In the face of that, there are somewhere between 40,000 and 60,000 skilled and highly technical jobs at stake in the Canadian nuclear industry. If the Prime Minister checks, I think he will know that those jobs are very much at stake right now unless something happens in the near future. Is there anything on the threshold or on the near horizon which he can see which will answer the problem and help the Canadian nuclear industry to survive?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Minister of State for International Trade, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and myself in our

travels in foreign countries have pushed the sale of the Candu. We have in some cases signed contracts. I repeat that it is not our position, as it seems to be that of the hon. member and his party, that these contracts are doomed. Before giving up on the contracts which we already have and declaring them doomed, I think the hon. member should try to encourage and support us in making those contracts effective, rather than asking us what we will do for an encore.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

EFFECT OF BUDGET PROVISION ON EMPLOYMENT

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, I have a question which is supplementary to the earlier one of the hon. member for Perth, for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He indicated in response to that hon. member that his estimate of lost car sales as a consequence of capital allowance changes was exaggerated. My question to the minister is simple. Would he please tell the House how many car sales and jobs, in his opinion, have been lost as a consequence of that budget measure? Given that there have been job losses in the minister's own view, why does he continue to support that measure?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I tried to get across that I did not accept the premises of my hon. friend's question because the analysis of the Minister of Finance and his advisers indicates that the impact is not what the industry had originally feared. Therefore, the approach of my hon. friend in his question is not one I would accept.

POSITION OF MINISTER

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, I repeat my question to the minister; it is a simple one. Does the minister believe that there have been any job losses and car sale losses as a consequence of the capital allowance change? If he believes that there have been, what is the degree, or is he saying to the House that no jobs and no sales have been lost as a consequence?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, we are in a situation where the over-all market for motor vehicles has declined in size in both the United States and Canada. There are a number of complex factors involved. The industry continues to argue that it is having some effect, and the analysis we have available indicates that, if the effect is there at all, it is minimal. I think this continues to be a matter of debate.