

before the United States Congress, called the Domestic Contents Automotive Bill, on which our Ambassador has written a letter. What other action will the Prime Minister take to protect an already existing pact with the United States, namely, the auto pact?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is correct. That Bill has given us a great deal of concern. It has been raised in various fora with the United States administration. I myself raised that general subject when I had lunch with President Reagan two weeks ago. The administration is somewhat inclined to say, "Well, this is Congress and we cannot always control them,"—any more than we can control the House of Commons as well as we would like—"but we, the administration, believe in international trade and will see what we can do." That was their general attitude, but the Hon. Member knows that our embassy in Washington is very busy trying to convey to Congressmen the danger of this kind of protectionist trend.

NECESSITY TO LOBBY CONGRESS

Mr. Scott Fennell (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I realize the Prime Minister is doing what he can, but as he knows that in the United States lobbying is done extensively on all Bills. Has he formed some potential lobby organization to protect the auto pact? There are many people in my riding and across Canada who are terrified that this pact might go down the drain and they will lose their jobs.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I just indicated that the Canadian embassy in Washington is concerned and that it is involved in lobbying. I am not sure, but I understand that there are even lobbyists hired on behalf of the Canadian Government to ensure that the lobbying is done properly. I recollect—and it is vague in my memory—that there was even some complaint from some quarters that we were hiring lobbyists in order to protect Canadian interests. I am happy to see that we have the Hon. Member's support on that.

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RAILWAYS

CROWNEST PASS RATE—ORIGIN OF DEMAND FOR CHANGES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. He indicated in answer to a question by one of the Conservative Members that there was no need to change the Crow rate as far as Quebec was concerned. I note with interest that there has been no great push for change from the Maritimes, Ontario, or British Columbia. To the contrary, the people in the Prairies, who are most affected are very much opposed to the change. Other than CPR, who wants this change?

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is obviously rhetorical. The Hon. Member knows that many westerners want the change. I can assure him that it is not for the benefit of Quebec, the Maritimes or, for that matter, Ontario. It is in the West where a consensus has developed that the Crow—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

• (1150)

Mr. Trudeau: I cannot understand why the Hon. Member's Party is laughing when I make that statement. The other day one of the spokesmen for his Party was on his feet suggesting certain forms of change to the Crow. The Hon. Member shakes his head. Mr. Speaker, I cannot remember exactly what Member asked the question, but I remember there was a question asked of this side of the House suggesting that, if we were going to change the Crow, we should change it in a certain way.

Every single leader whom I met in the West, Mr. Speaker, from various interests, cattlemen, grain people, elevator people, every single one said that the Crow had to go. One of them said "Well, I have had four people phone me saying that they would not like any change to the Crow".

Mr. Deans: Four people?

Mr. Trudeau: Four people. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I have heard people in the streets and I have heard petitioners say that they did not want any change, but every responsible leader with whom I have met said that there is a consensus that the Crow must be changed for the good of western Canada, not for Quebec, not for the Maritimes, not for Ontario. Premier Bennett has said it. The Hon. Member said that British Columbia did not want it. The Premier of that Province has said that he wanted the kind of change that the Minister of Transport is proposing.

The Premier of Alberta has said that he wanted the Crow to go. The then Premier of Manitoba, Premier Lyons, wanted a change in the Crow.

Mr. Deans: That is only two Tories so far.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am on the verge of committing indiscretions, but I can tell the—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deans: Go ahead.

Mr. Trudeau: I have the permission of the NDP, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the Hon. Members that every western Premier who had dinner with me when we had the meeting on the economy a couple of months ago, every western Premier there said he thought we should change the Crow.