

mation which I had on Operation Checkmate. I have provided that information to the attorney general of the province of Ontario.

I think that he has a tough decision to make as to how to proceed with the information he has, but I think he should stop passing the buck to me and make his own decision on the matter.

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RAILWAYS

CANADIAN NATIONAL TAKEOVER OF NORTHERN ALBERTA RAILWAY—EFFECT ON WORKERS

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister advise me of any changes affecting workers on the Northern Alberta Railway as a result of the CN takeover of the NAR in Alberta?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I do not have the details on the matter, but I am told that this is not the first time a railway has been taken over by another railway, and that there are procedures to be followed. The decision as to the acceptability or otherwise of the takeover is presently in the hands of the Canadian Transport Commission.

Mr. Cooper: Madam Speaker, can the minister assure me, in light of this change, that the 65 people in Roma Junction, northern Alberta, who are employed by this railway will not lose their jobs because of the change of office, which is being moved to the city of Edmonton some 300 miles away?

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, I am told that workers in such instances are protected by their terms of employment. However, I will pay particular attention to the case raised by the hon. member.

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INDUSTRY

CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT—NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Bob Rae (Broadview-Greenwood): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The conclusion of the American delegation on the auto pact negotiations is reported in the press as follows:

Gray was more interested in playing out a political charade for his Canadian audience, than in specific negotiations.

Mr. Deans: As usual.

Mr. Paproski: Same old Gray.

Mr. Rae: Can the minister tell us with regard to the auto pact the specific proposal he made to the Americans?

Oral Questions

● (1450)

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I do not think I have to respond to unattributed comments in press reports. But I do want to place before the House of Commons—I would be happy to table it—the joint press release made by myself and Governor Askew which concludes that “both sides felt the meeting was useful and constructive, and agreed to hold further discussions.”

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray: If there is any charade involved here, it is with my hon. friend's attempt to show concern about this matter beyond other people who have equal and greater concern.

Mr. Clark: Equal and greater?

Mr. Rae: Madam Speaker, we have not had an answer to the specific question.

Mr. Clark: It is tough to be arrogant and a clown.

Mr. Rae: The reports that say that an American bureaucrat who was at the meeting said that absolutely nothing happened. Someone else said that he was still waiting for the Canadian proposals, and that no specific Canadian proposals were made. My question to the minister is this: did he make any specific proposals with regard to a fair share of investment in engineering, design, research and development, small cars and after-parts? Did the minister specifically raise any of these issues in the discussion on the auto pact last week?

Mr. Gray: Yes, Madam Speaker, I raised each and every one of them. I put our case very forcefully. We are going to continue the discussions until we get the results that we are seeking in the interests of Canadian workers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gray: I am surprised that my hon. friend puts the weight he does on the unattributed statements of unidentified American officials; he is quite a nationalist!

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BOYCOTTING OF MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES—GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Madam Speaker, my question is to the right hon. Prime Minister. In defence of the principles of freedom, the Conservative party has since January last stood for the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. Are the government and the Olympic committee finally going to announce that we are not officially competing, and will the government tell this to Moscow? Will it renounce Canadian officials in attendance at Canadian Olympic expense?

Will the government reconsider the presenting of the Olympic flag, which is a political contradiction, mentioned on