

Oral Questions

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the government is very much aware of the threats in the particular proposal to which the hon. member has referred. I have looked at what might be described as fine hypothetical scenarios for free trade. I should like to say the hon. member that my department will be looking at this in detail. But the most important thing which I think we should recognize at present is that we do have threats to our industry. At the same time, we are fully committed to liberalizing our trade.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF INDUSTRY

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce in the expectation that perhaps I will get one answer instead of two. Last February representatives of the United Automobile Workers visited the minister and presented him with a brief containing a number of proposals to improve the health of the automobile industry. At that time the minister indicated he would be taking these proposals very seriously and would announce action in the very near future. Can the minister say now what discussions are taking place on the UAW proposals and what action, if any, is contemplated on the UAW brief?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have answered the UAW brief, and I believe the hon. member may have seen a copy of it. I noted a number of suggestions made by the UAW, including an annual report on the auto trade between Canada and the United States. That will be done as a matter of course from now on.

The other initiative announced some months ago following that meeting was to provide more incentive to Canadian auto parts manufacturers by providing tariff remissions on the reimport into Canada of auto parts made by Canadian firms but located in the automobiles of foreign manufacturers.

AUTOMOBILES—POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT IN INDUSTRY

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo-Cambridge): May I ask the minister whether he is still relying on an up-turn in the Canadian market and the American market to improve employment in the auto industry or whether he is taking specific measures, aside from some of the measures he has indicated in the past. The reason I ask that question is that it seems that everything that has been done until the present has been an absolute failure. In fact, the concessions on the remissions program was a complete failure. The question is whether the minister is contemplating any

[Mr. Corbin.]

new initiative to improve employment in the auto industry in Canada.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I have indicated that we have taken a number of new trade initiatives to assist the Canadian auto manufacturers, particularly part makers, to find new markets. At the same time, I must remind the hon. member that when 80 per cent of the market is in the United States, there will not be any major up-turn for the Canadian auto manufacturing industry until that market turns up.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—POSSIBILITY OF STUDIES ON RUNWAY EXTENSION BEING REFERRED TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport arising out of the remarks he made the other day. Can the minister tell the House whether, with respect to the Vancouver airport studies about which I asked the minister, these studies will be filed with the House and with the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications before this session is adjourned?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I will have to see the report before making any decision on it, Mr. Speaker. In the meantime, I intend to meet the minister of transportation for British Columbia and discuss the whole matter with him. At this moment, I cannot say exactly what we will do with the reports.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—SUGGESTED COMMITTEE STUDY OF REPORTS PRIOR TO DECISION ON RUNWAY EXTENSION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): I thank the minister for his reply. On July 9 the minister said, and I quote from *Hansard*:

Mr. Speaker, I am ready to table all the reports and have them referred to the Standing Committee on Transportation of this House for full discussion.

May I ask the minister whether that means that no decision will be made by the government or by the minister's department on the proposed international airport until the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications has a chance to study the reports which the minister is collecting at this time?

● (1440)

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): That will depend upon when I receive the report. Whether I receive it tomorrow or in a month makes a difference. With the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, I am committed to study all the main transportation problems in Canada, and I want to stick to that until I have good reasons not to.