

Tariff Concessions

I should like to table, at this time, the order in council giving effect to the temporary tariff arrangement extended to the General Investment Corporation of Quebec.

Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings): I am sure the house is interested in the announcement which has just been made by the Minister of Finance. It is good to know that other European car manufacturers, through an agency established here, are developing their cars in this country.

As the minister has suggested, Volvo blazed a trail in this regard some two or three years ago. I think a very happy procedure was adopted at that time, and I am glad it is being followed now. We will see the order in council in due course and note what concessions or arrangements have been made. There were some which we made in connection with Volvo, and I understand approximately the same is being done now in connection with these companies. As I say, we shall study the order in council.

Mr. Reid Scott (Danforth): In keeping with the other short statements on motions, all I should like to say is "Hear, hear".

[Translation]

Mr. Guy Marcoux (Quebec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, we must be grateful to the French industrial interests for being interested in our country to such a point that they agreed to build here automobile production plants and to give the General Investment Corporation a licence to carry out that project.

It must also be noted that concessions made by the federal government in terms of taxation surely facilitated the decision reached by the Renault and Peugeot firms.

We hope that the establishment of a foreign industry will result in a proper competition among Canadians. There should be no fear of unfair competition, because the impact of that new establishment will particularly be a large reduction of unemployment in Canada.

In view of the fact that the Quebec metropolitan bureau for commerce and industry was the first to promote such a project, it is to be hoped that the chosen site will be near Quebec, at Lévis, as recently suggested by Mr. Armand Viau, the general director of the bureau.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the announcement just made by the minister is welcome and even though we must deplore the fact that Canadians do not seem prepared to invest enough capital to be the sole owners of automobile plants, we must commend the General Investment Corporation which took the ini-

[Mr. Gordon.]

tiative of making necessary arrangements with the French companies to have one more industry established in Canada in the best interest of Canadians.

Mr. Lucien Plourde (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, we, in this corner of the house, are pleased to hear that Peugeot and Renault automobile plants will locate in the province of Quebec.

The establishment of those new industries in the province of Quebec will reduce unemployment, especially in the Quebec area, as the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Marcoux) mentioned a moment ago.

Those industries should definitely come to the Quebec area because my own riding, a labour riding, is greatly affected by unemployment. And this would greatly alleviate unemployment there.

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance who a moment ago made a statement on behalf of the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury).

Is he in a position to tell the house today where exactly the Renault-Peugeot plants, referred to in this statement, will be located?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, it will be in the Montreal area; I think in Terrebonne but I am not sure of this. The Minister of Industry is having a press conference now in Montreal on this subject, and I have no further details to announce.

[Translation]

Mr. Grégoire: Could the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry exert pressure for the plants to locate in designated areas affected by unemployment and for granting them, besides special tariffs, special favours to locate in designated areas?

[Text]

Mr. Gordon: I can assure my hon. friend that this was urged by the Minister of Industry and was discussed over quite a considerable period of time, and discussed very seriously. In the end it became quite clear that if we wanted this plant in Canada, if we wanted to attract this industry to Canada, it would be necessary for us to allow the promoters of the enterprise to build the plant