

spend on that. There is other work for that committee which I think should have a higher priority.

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AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

INQUIRY HOW MANY SMALL CARS WILL BE MANUFACTURED IN CANADA

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As you know, the minister has been travelling around the world trying to help Canadian industry and I wonder whether he might be able to give us some information today. He has no doubt noted that the United States auto industry has moved significantly to the manufacturing of small, what they call world cars with front-wheel drive. Given the auto pact and our very close relationship with them, how many of those cars will be manufactured in Canada this year?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, I want to welcome my hon. friend back from his recent journeys to Mexico and Washington.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That was great; now answer the question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray: It is my understanding that a number of major motor vehicle manufacturers will be manufacturing smaller cars in Canada in forthcoming model years, and I refer specifically to the Lynx to be assembled in St. Thomas, and the plans of General Motors to assemble smaller cars, I think in the next model year, at its plant in Oshawa. Also, in particular, in the coming year the General Motors company, which has recently tripled the size of its transmission plant in Windsor, will begin manufacturing transmissions there for the new General Motors J cars. I think we are making progress in the area of assembling these smaller, down-sized cars in Canada, as well as manufacturing parts for them. However, I think we need further progress and I am striving to achieve that progress.

● (1440)

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the minister. Incidentally, when I was in Washington, the people there mentioned that the minister had been there.

I wonder if the minister might reflect on the ad being run on television which says quite clearly that Americans are not going to be pushed around any longer. That is an ad for Chrysler, and I understand that Chrysler has just announced it will lay off 600 workers in Canada indefinitely on the twenty-fourth of this month. Given that we are not manufacturing small cars and they are not selling big cars, when are we going to stop being pushed around?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, the Chrysler cars assembled in Canada are down-sized, fuel-efficient—

Mr. Deans: Nonsense.

Mr. Gray:—models of the Dodge Cordoba and Mirada, compared with the ones previously manufactured here, as well as the down-sized Imperial. I hope we will find an improvement in the over-all sales of these cars as the buying season goes on. I hope also that it will be possible to call back these workers before too long.

My hon. friends are concerned about the Imperial. It is a down-sized, fuel-efficient car, although a luxury car, and with all their supposed concern for workers, I would think hon. members opposite would urge people to buy these cars made in Windsor so that the people in whom they claim to have an interest will continue their work and get back to work.

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PENITENTIARIES

SUGGESTED CAUSE OF PRESENT CONDITIONS

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General. Can the minister confirm that a significant part of the problem within our prisons is the nature of the institutions themselves and that it was exacerbated by the refusal of the minister's immediate predecessor to proceed with the construction of modern, manageable prisons to replace antiquated, century-old dungeons?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, there is in fact no shortage of accommodation for the present inmate population, but it certainly is true, and I agree with my friend, that some of our institutions are very old. The B.C. penitentiary was one which I was pleased to be able to close in my first few weeks on the job. The penitentiary at Laval is now slated to be closed, and two new institutions, one at Donnacona and one at Drummondville in the province of Quebec, will be constructed over the next four or five years to replace them. However, I want to assure hon. members that the present accommodations of the correctional service of Canada are adequate for the present inmate population.

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ENERGY

IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT—EFFECT ON OIL SUPPLY TO EASTERN CANADA

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the continuing Iran-Iraq war—in fact, it perhaps is escalating—there is going to be a total shut-off of oil production from those two countries for several months, if not longer. Can the minister tell the House whether he has been in contact with his counterparts in the other signatory nations to the