

Canada-U.S. Automobile Agreement

Mr. Speaker, one would think that these men were actually paid by the large manufacturers. As a matter of fact, they are, because they owe their position to the funds supplied by the manufacturers. They work in their interest, but they do not dare say it to the people because, what they actually do, is only to throw a smokescreen in order to hide behind it. They use this smokescreen to try to prove or to say to the Canadian people: Well, we have done something for the consumer. But, as a matter of fact, they do absolutely nothing. They use the consumer as a springboard to attain their purpose, which is to protect capitalism which is crushing the people at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, those are the remarks I wanted to make because I could not gloss over the hypocritical ways always in evidence in this house.

Indeed, legislation is always introduced under a false light—

An hon. Member: What a light.

Mr. Gauthier:—people are always led to believe that tomorrow they will benefit from some legislation that will be of real assistance. But once a piece of legislation is passed, we find that it was only to make fun of the Canadian people who are merely used to gain some objectives.

As pointed out by one of my colleagues, their laws may be likened to whited sepulchres.

Mr. Speaker, I think this government has many pharisees and I believe the people are intelligent enough to understand, even if the government is brandishing the threat of a general election like a club over our heads.

Mr. Speaker, even if some political parties are playing politics and are here, so it seems, to force a general election, for our part we are here to administer public affairs, and that is exactly what we are going to do. If some parties are seeking a general election and are trying to scare us into accepting things we disagree with, they are very much mistaken, because such threats do not scare us for we have the people behind us.

We are upholding the people's case and as long as we are here, our duty will be to protect the interests of the consumer, the interests of the people, and to give them everything to which they are entitled without upsetting the balance between laws and rights.

On the other hand, manufacturers have some rights too, they are entitled to some
[Mr. Gauthier.]

protection but not to the detriment of the consumer. Let them put their cards on the table, let them show their true faces and let them go to the people. Let them dare tell the people the truth and see what happens, Mr. Speaker.

[Text]

• (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington South): In rising to speak on this amendment moved by the hon. Member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), I should like to say at the outset that I am most surprised that he would move an amendment. He said he was not anxious to obstruct the proceedings of the House. We had given way in this instance in order to get on with Government business which is before the House. He stated that he did not wish to obstruct, and yet he proceeded to introduce and debate the amendment before us. I might say that we did not take advantage of this supply motion because we had been promised by the Government that we would be given time for a full debate on this subject. In the Speech from the Throne this is stated:

You will be asked to approve a resolution concerning the important agreement on the automobile industry recently concluded with the United States.

Well, we have been waiting for a chance to debate this very important issue, and felt that we would have ample opportunity fairly soon. However, on the motion for Interim Supply we did take the opportunity of bringing this very complex subject to the attention of the House. On March 31, as reported in *Hansard* on page 13004, I proceeded to bring to the Government's attention the fact that we, as elected Members of Parliament, had never been given an opportunity to debate this subject. The treaty was signed before even being referred to Parliament.

I realize that the executive of the Canadian Government was not doing anything illegal by signing this treaty before bringing it before Parliament. However, I should like to call to the attention of the Government the words of the late Mackenzie King, their former respected leader, who said on June 21, 1926 in this House that before Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers advised ratification of a treaty or convention affecting Canada or signify acceptance of any treaty, convention or agreement involving military or economic sanction, the approval of the Parliament of Canada should be secured. We were never given that opportunity. We will