

FARM MACHINERY**STEPS TO BRING ABOUT PRICE STABILITY**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Paul Yewchuck (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I should also like to address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. It concerns the prices of farm products and farm machinery. As the house knows, prices of farm products have not gone up in the past 15 to 20 years to any significant degree; yet prices of farm machinery have more than doubled in that period. Could the minister tell me what specific steps he is taking to introduce some measure of stability in regard to the price of farm machinery so as to enable the farmers to continue their farming operations?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest that this question as asked should be answered by way of a statement on motions rather than by way of an answer at this time.

INDUSTRY**AUTOMOBILES—RENEWAL OF U.S.-CANADA AGREEMENT**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the auto pact between Canada and the United States been renewed? If not, is it likely to be?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): It is not necessary for the agreement to be renewed, since it was signed for an indefinite period. What we saw these past few days was a review of the Canada-U.S. agreement, and I feel that the review, as already mentioned, has been concluded to the satisfaction of Canadian producers.

There were talks also between the minister and Canadian manufacturers of automobiles and parts. Those talks are to be resumed at the beginning of next year. This is to make sure that the automobile agreement will bring the best possible results in the best interest of Canadians.

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In the recent negotiations or discussions did the Canadian government make any effort with the Canadian automotive companies and also with their parent

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firms in the United States to bring about, if possible, similar pricing policies on both sides of the border, that is to say, policies established by the companies themselves and not by the dealers?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, this is a very broad problem. I was not on my feet at the right time this morning, Mr. Speaker, and I was supposed to table, as I will do on Monday, letters received from the automobile manufacturers in Canada giving me assurance that they fully agree with the spirit of the present operation of the pact and that they intend to continue to do so. I have also said previously to the press that I have received from the three or four most important manufacturers some idea of their intentions for the year 1969. These intentions have been reviewed and have been found satisfactory by the department and the minister. I also met with the auto parts manufacturers and answered most of their questions, I think. In this morning's *Financial Post* they declare that they are optimistic about the future. So I think that the situation in this field is one in which we can all take pride. Pricing policies are not under my control, but I understand that the differential between U.S. and Canadian prices is getting narrower.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister also consider tabling, either on Monday or some day soon, the result of the review of the auto parts agreement which he said had already been concluded? Have there been any changes, etc. and, if so, can we see what they are?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I issued a communiqué about two weeks ago and I will table it at the same time as the letters to which I referred.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**NIGERIA—ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION TO SEND OBSERVER**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Anderson (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The press reported recently that the Canadian government had received an invitation from the government of Nigeria to send observers to the areas of conflict in that country. Would the minister inform the house whether or not such invitation has been received and, if so,