

the U.S. now believe that the Auto Pact safeguards, crucial to investment in Canada, are obsolete? Will he also confirm that they are acting on that assumption in conducting negotiations on the Auto Pact?

**Mr. John McDermid (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister I will take that question as notice. However, I think it has been said many, many times that, if it is working, don't fix it.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is precisely the view of the NDP and every Canadian and every one of our automotive communities. We are saying do not touch it, and this document says the Conservatives are about to abandon those safeguards.

[Translation]

METHOD OF APPLYING PROVISIONS OF AUTO PACT—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** My question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, because his name is on this paper. The Minister knows perfectly well that General Motors is considering new investments at Boisbriand in the Province of Quebec. This corporation accepts the principle of the Auto Pact safeguards. My question is quite straightforward. Does the Minister agree the Auto Pact safeguards should be maintained, yes or no?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Government has an abiding concern for ensuring that the automobile industry conforms to the provisions of the Auto Pact, and we discuss these matters with the companies that maintain trading relations with us in this respect.

[English]

AUTO PACT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, as Canadians will know, particularly those in automotive communities, this matter affects quite literally thousands of Canadian jobs. I want to get something clear from the Acting Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance, someone with authority and responsibility in this domain. Will the Government support what the Secretary of State for External Affairs has said unequivocally in the past, that the Auto Pact safeguards will remain and are non-negotiable?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows from his own personal experience, the Auto Pact has been a very important part of the economic development of our country. We are committed to maintaining the impact and benefits of the Auto Pact in the fullest way possible. The Hon. Member well knows that General Motors announced an expansion project in his own riding, I think something like \$2 billion or \$2.5 billion. That is well above any commitments they need make in the city of Oshawa. Why? Because the productivity of the company in Canada is good and that is something we are committed—

### Oral Questions

**Mr. Broadbent:** What about other communities?

**Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):** I am sorry, if the Hon. Member would let me continue? We are committed to maintaining that.

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### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

CF-18 FIGHTER AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CONTRACT—  
STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO MINISTER OF ENERGY

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. In an interview given to *La Presse* yesterday the Minister of Energy blew the Government's cover on the awarding of the CF-18 contract. He said it was a strictly political choice designed to give the economy of Montreal sectors of hope within the strategy designed for telecommunications, aeronautics, and high technology.

I ask the Minister where are the strategies for the other cities whose economies are also dependent upon aeronautics, high technology, and telecommunications? Can they no longer expect to receive federal investment? Can they no longer make bids on federal jobs contracts? When is the Government going to establish strategies for other cities? When is it going to restore hope to the city of Winnipeg whose economy it is destroying right now?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, first with respect to the report which the Hon. Member has referred to, I think he is referring to a headline which appeared in yesterday's edition of *La Presse*. I think upon reading the full text of that interview he will find there was some inaccuracy in the way in which that interview was reported. Perhaps he may want to check into that.

On the other part of the question, I do not think there is any question about this Government's commitment to Manitoba, western Canada or any other part of the country. The unemployment rate in Manitoba is the lowest in Canada at 6.9 per cent. The Government can certainly take some credit for that.

In so far as the aerospace industry is concerned, he and his colleagues violently opposed the acquisition of de Havilland by Boeing. That company is now generating some 250 jobs in Winnipeg as a result of the manufacturing of the wing of the Boeing 747. Clearly Manitoba has and will continue to have a leadership role in the aerospace industry.

CF-5 CONTRACT—CLAIM MADE FOR BRISTOL AIRCRAFT

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry):** Mr. Speaker, I am going to be very interested to see how the Deputy Prime Minister explains that in Winnipeg on Saturday, and whether people will really believe him.