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Oral Questions

to reveal the amount, whether positive or negative, of the reserve loss and, of course, the hon. member will find out about it on the first Tuesday of June.

INDUSTRY

CANADA-U.S. AUTO PACT-DISTRIBUTION OF JOBS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Yet another automotive parts company has today announced the shutdown of most of its operations in Sarnia and that it will move back to the United States.

Considering that the Ontario government's study of the auto industry confirmed what we and the Canadian autoworkers have been saying for many months, namely, that Canada is not getting its share of jobs in this industry, would the minister admit that he and his colleague, the minister of public works, have been misinforming the House when they have contended that Canada has received more than its share of jobs, because they failed to take into account the more than 225,000 U.S. auto workers employed in such key sectors as stampings, carburettors and windshields?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I never at any time said that everything at all times is perfect with the automotive pact. I have said repeatedly in this House that we are trying to encourage the building of more automobile plants in Canada because we recognize that there is an imbalance of trade between the two countries. The fact is, however, that the Ontario government's study does not take into consideration third countries shipping to Canada, such as Japan, Germany and other European countries, when trying to balance the automotive trade between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Broadbent: What the minister has said is perfectly true, Mr. Speaker, but they do not consider the price of apples in Tanzania, either. What the minister has indicated is irrelevant to the question. The minister of public works said in this House on Friday that Canada received in excess of 11 per cent of the jobs and that we are consuming some 9 per cent of the output of this industry. That is a falsehood, Mr. Speaker.

I am asking the minister to confirm that that falsehood which he, as the minister, stated on an earlier occasion, not in this House but in committee, leaves out some 225,000 Americans working in such sectors as windshields, stampings, carburettors, and so on. The Government of Canada is using misleading figures: I want the minister to admit that. • (1427)

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, we in Canada have 11.2 per cent of the labour involved in the automobile industry between Canada and the United States.

Mr. Broadbent: That is false.

Mr. Horner: The hon. member says it is false.

Mr. Broadbent: Read the Ontario report.

Mr. Horner: He can produce his figures. Obviously, the Ontario government has produced theirs, and theirs are in error because they have failed to take into consideration, as I said, third countries shipping into Canada. They have failed to take into consideration that fact; that is why their figures are in error.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, this can be pursued at another time, but it is basically the minister who is in error because the federal government has left out 225,000 Americans who are employed in this industry. More specifically, I want to know what the minister is doing about getting more jobs. He has admitted that we have a shortfall in jobs. I want to know what he is doing.

Specifically, would he agree that the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement which states that both countries are committed to a share on a fair and equitable basis in the future growth of the industry means that the companies should be investing proportionately in both countries. If he admits that, would he tell us why he has not obtained from the companies precise commitments to invest in Canada in the next two years in proportion to what they plan to invest in the United States?

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, I have repeatedly said that there is a shortfall in the automotive trade of about 5,000 jobs. I do not mind saying that again. I have repeatedly told the House that we are carrying on negotiations with the three major auto manufacturers in the North American markets hoping that we will get some additional plants built in Canada.

Nothing world give me more pleasure than to tell the House today that more plants will be built in A, B and C locations, but I cannot say that. Negotiations are still going on. I hope one day to be able to tell the hon. member in this House where the plants will be built and how many more jobs will be created by them.