

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**

**POSSIBLE USE OF BRAMPTON PLANT BY CHRYSLER CORPORATION**

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He recently had some very extensive discussions with Chrysler of Canada. I would like to ask him if he directly dealt with the subject involving the 1,400 employees at American Motors in Brampton who will be laid off in April, and whether he appealed on their behalf that the Chrysler work be carried out in the Brampton plant.

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Yes, Madam Speaker, Chrysler indicated there was a possibility that the Brampton plant could be used for the continuation of the production of rear-wheel drive cars such as the New Yorker. I am advised that the Brampton operation has a maximum capacity of about 80,000 units a year. Chrysler expects to produce 125,000 units a year and will therefore also be considering a St. Louis operation, a vacant plant, which could produce up to 150,000 units a year. They indicated a final decision would be made this week or next week.

• (1450)

**ROLE OF MINISTER**

**Mr. John McDermid (Brampton-Georgetown):** Madam Speaker, the Minister did not exactly answer my question. Did he make an appeal on behalf of the 1,400 workers who are being laid off in April in Brampton from that plant to get the work there or did he just take their word and say, 'That is fine' and just let the jobs go to the Americans?

**Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that we want to retain every single automobile job that we can in this country. We were hoping that we could retain the rear-wheel drive production in Canada, whether it is in Brampton or any other facility. That decision has still not been taken by the Chrysler Corporation.

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**NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS**

**CANADA-UNITED STATES WEAPONS TESTING AGREEMENT—  
EFFECT OF ORDER IN COUNCIL**

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Both he and his colleague, the Minister of National Defence, have said that the Canadian public, in voting by a majority against Cruise missile testing, was ignorant of all the complexities involved.

If the Minister and his colleague really believe that the Canadian public is ignorant, why did the Minister authorize an Order in Council the day after Parliament rose for the Christmas recess, authorizing the Canadian ambassador to sign a framework weapons testing agreement in Washington? Why did he not bring this agreement forward to the Canadian public and Parliament? Why has the Order in Council not even been made public or gazetted? Why did the Minister decide, if he is so anxious for the Canadian public to be knowledgeable on this matter, that it should know nothing about it, and that the agreement would be signed in Washington and not in Ottawa?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I want to assure the Hon. Member that at no point have I ever stated that the Canadian public was ignorant on the question of the Cruise missile. I do not have that view at all, and I have never expressed that view. What I have said was with respect to a specific question that was put in the Gallup Poll, namely, that it was an incomplete question and did not include all the factors that had to be taken into account in reaching a judgment on the Cruise missile. There was no reflection on the knowledge or lack of it on the part of the Canadian public. I hasten to assure the Hon. Member that when the umbrella agreement is signed it will be tabled in the House and all its contents will be made known to the Canadian public, to the Canadian Parliament, and I will be prepared to answer all questions, inside the House or outside the House, with respect to the details of that umbrella agreement.

**SITE OF SIGNING OF AGREEMENT**

**Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam):** Madam Speaker, looking at the public opinion poll questions, they are generally what one would call soft. If they had been tougher, if they had said more about the Cruise missile testing than they did, the vote would probably have been 80 per cent opposed rather than 52 per cent.

The Minister still has not answered my question. Why are we signing this agreement in Washington? Why was the Order in Council authorizing that agreement to be signed never gazetted? Why is he persisting in this secrecy? Is he frightened of parliamentary and public scrutiny? Is that the problem?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs):** No, Madam Speaker. The Hon. Member is, I think, profoundly misinformed about the gazetted. I understand the fact that an Order in Council had been passed authorizing the signing of the agreement was published in *The Canada Gazette*, and the fact that the Order in Council had been passed was listed in *The Canada Gazette*. If I am mistaken I will obviously correct myself, but I think probably the Hon. Member will have to do the correcting rather than I.