

think the minister would agree the vote was indicative of the deep-rooted unease the workers in Canada feel about Chrysler's future and the ability of the government to protect their jobs.

● (1140)

I should like to ask the minister whether the government will take steps to require that Chrysler manufacture in Canada, in proportion to Canada's share of the market, the so-called world car on which they are basing their survival in the future, and that the investment necessary for that production be made in Canada concurrently with the investment they propose to make in the United States.

Mr. Gérald Laniel (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I hope, Madam Speaker, that the hon. member will accept my attempt to answer this question. All I can do at this time is to repeat the words of the minister of a couple of weeks ago when he said that the federal government had a commitment from Chrysler. At that time there were talks with the unions following which the minister met with Chrysler management. I wish to inform the hon. member that at five o'clock this afternoon the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will again meet with Chrysler officials.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: Today, when the minister is meeting the Chrysler officials, would it be possible for him to impress upon them that if they hope to gain any kind of support in Canada for their package, they must invest in Canada at the same time as they are investing in the United States in product lines which they believe will be the basis for their survival in North America?

Mr. Laniel: The hon. member is aware of the commitment of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to the maintenance of jobs in Canada and to Canadian workers getting a fair deal. I am sure that the minister is aware of the preoccupation of the hon. member and of all the points he has made on the whole question. They will be part of the negotiations this afternoon, and the interests of Canada and of Canadian workers will be well defended by the minister.

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TRADE

PRODUCTS FROM LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. During his recent visits to certain underdeveloped countries, did he put forward the point of view to those with whom he conferred, as it is reported he did, that the best way the developed countries can help the underdeveloped countries improve their standard of living is by helping them to increase their export trade, and that the most effective way in which this can be done is by the developed

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countries reducing tariffs and other import restrictions on the products which the underdeveloped countries want to export in greater quantities? If that is the case, would the Prime Minister indicate to the House to what broad categories of products which are also produced in Canada he feels this program of reducing tariffs and import restrictions should apply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, as a result of the policy of the Canadian government and of GATT, particularly at the Tokyo Round negotiations, as the hon. member will know having been such a distinguished former trade minister himself, some 80 per cent of the products of the less-developed countries enter Canada duty free. All of the so-called tropical products enter Canada duty free, that is products from the south, and those countries the goods of which are subject to duty have the advantage of the generalized system of preferences. So there is no doubt that the Canadian government and the people of Canada are making a genuine, across the board effort to facilitate the progress of the developing countries by trading with them. Canada in that respect, even in the difficult areas of textiles, clothing and shoes, has a record that is immensely better, for instance, than that of the nation to the south of us in terms of importing for our consumption goods coming from Third World countries as opposed to those made domestically.

Mr. Hees: As the Prime Minister knows, there is a tremendous pressure on Canada and on all developed countries to allow these underdeveloped countries to increase their exports, particularly of textiles, footwear and things of that kind. Does he feel that this country should take the lead, as I believe he was reported to have indicated to those with whom he spoke on his trip, and would Canada undertake such a program and make it possible to import more of those products into this country?

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, as to taking the lead, I believe my previous answer indicated that Canada is indeed taking the lead ahead of our major partners in providing access to producers from the Third World, even with respect to these goods. But I must point out to the hon. member, as I did to some of my interlocutors who were asking for increased quotas of these particular goods coming into Canada, that they are essentially produced by three of the Third World countries, namely, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, and that if we were to increase the quotas, we would be helping Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore, some of which have higher national per capita revenues than some of the so-called northern countries, members of the OECD.

If the object were to help several of the African countries, it would not be achieved that way unless we continued to discriminate against South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore; or, to put it more accurately, not through discrimination but through bilaterally negotiating quotas with them.