

Inquiries of the Ministry

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

FINANCE

TARIFF TREATMENT ACCORDED TO MICHELIN RUBBER COMPANY—SIMILAR CONCESSIONS TO CANADIAN TIRE COMPANIES

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. It concerns the government's policy of allowing the Michelin Tire Company of France to put duty-free Michelin tires on the Canadian market, and the serious effect this will have on the sale of tires made in Canada. I wish to ask the minister whether concessions similar to those offered to Michelin in connection with locating in the Maritimes were also offered to existing Canadian tire companies? If so, what was the response of those companies? If such concessions were not offered, why were they not offered?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): We study each of these cases on its own merits. This is what was done in the Michelin case. I think the decision was a good one.

Mr. Saltsman: Regardless of the merits of the decision affecting Michelin, would the minister consider calling together representatives of the industry to see whether some policy could be worked out in this situation, bearing in mind the serious difficulties which are now facing tire manufacturers?

Mr. Pepin: I will do that, Mr. Speaker. I think there is a question of specialization involved here. I understand that the type of tire provided by Michelin is not produced by others in Canada.

INDUSTRY

REORGANIZATION OF E.M.I. COSSOR COMPANY

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, of which, oddly enough, he has given me notice. Is there any news concerning E.M.I. Cossor to report this morning?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): With respect to E.M.I., the company which was in trouble, I am

[Mr. Honey.]

pleased to announce that with the good cooperation of the various federal departments, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in particular, and my own, and with the collaboration of a provincial entity namely General Estates, the company is now being reinstated, reorganized under different ownership.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

SHIPBUILDING

COMPLETION OF ROBERTSON INQUIRY

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce before he goes out to look after another industry which is closing down. Can he tell us when the report on shipbuilding is likely to be ready, bearing in mind the distressed state of that industry, particularly in Saint John?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): It was to have reached me by March 31 but Commodore Robertson has asked for an extension of one month. I have agreed to this, and I hope to be in a position to report by May.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question period expired some moments ago but perhaps the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby might be allowed to ask a question in view of the difficulty he encountered with one previously.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYED AUTO WORKERS—FURTHER HEARING AS TO TAB BENEFITS

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Thank you for your consideration, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising from his answer to the hon. member for Ontario in which he indicated that workers might re-apply for TAB benefits after their original applications had been turned down, if new facts were brought forward. Can the minister tell us why this procedure was not made available in two recent cases to workers in Oshawa?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Because the new facts were not considered to be new by the Board, Mr. Speaker.