

Inquiries of the Ministry

I may say that, seized with the problems of facing Hamilton in this particular situation, the Department of Industry is urgently canvassing the possibilities of alternative industrial use for this plant. At the same time my colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is urgently undertaking a survey of the proposed release of men by Studebaker with a view to formulating some constructive proposal.

Mr. J. C. Munro (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Industry. I wonder whether the minister would give his comments on the suggestion made in the telegram received by the government today from the mayor of Hamilton to the effect that the government consider taking over this industry as a national industry. Further, what action is the government specifically contemplating in the way of adjustments under the T.A.B. arrangements similar to those which are received by other auto workers.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the suggestion made by the mayor of Hamilton is an interesting one. Perhaps I would be misleading the house if I were to indicate that there was any likelihood that the government would nationalize this particular concern. In so far as the arrangements under T.A.B. are concerned, this is largely the purpose of the survey which is being carried out by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

Mr. William Dean Howe (Hamilton South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to elaborate on that question by asking the minister when a decision on this question could be made by the government, because it does involve between 600 and 900 men who will become unemployed in Hamilton.

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I think the government has acted with considerable speed and vigour.

[Later:]

Mr. Joseph Macaluso (Hamilton West): I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, in his capacity as minister of manpower. Is the minister prepared to meet, or has he made arrangements to meet, with representatives of the auto workers employed in the Studebaker plant to discuss the placement of these displaced workers, and particularly the placement of

[Mr. Drury.]

those auto workers who, because of their age, will find it difficult to obtain other employment?

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I understand that when the hon. member for Hamilton West was asking his question the translation system was not operative. This is the report I have received from the table and I would like to give the hon. member an opportunity to ask his question again.

Mr. Macaluso: That is the same information I received, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration in his capacity as designate minister of manpower. Is he prepared to meet, or is he going to meet with representatives of the employees at the Studebaker plant in Hamilton to discuss the placement of these auto workers, and especially to deal with the placement of those who, because of age, will find it difficult to obtain other employment?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the N.E.S. is already in contact with the company and the unions. We are sending somebody from Toronto today to meet with the unions and the company, and to solve as many problems as we can at this stage.

[Later:]

Mr. Max Salisman (Waterloo South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a somewhat supplementary question to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. In view of the frequency with which these lay-offs are taking place would the minister give serious consideration to the setting up of machinery for prior consultation before plants dismiss their employees?

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

MUNSINGER INVESTIGATION—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON SECURITY MEASURES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister?

Last Friday the Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) surprised the whole house when he brought out the Munsinger case.

In the interest of justice and truth, does the Prime Minister intend to tell parliament all