

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I should like to know what practice the hon. member is referring to in his "snarkiness"?

Mr. Alexander: To legislating by way of regulation: That is the practice to which I was referring.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons passes bills which permit the government to adopt regulations. The hon. member should know that, in his "snarkiness".

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind the Prime Minister giving me a lecture. I know he is the end-all when it comes to wisdom. However, my point is this. This government promised a green paper on immigration which was to be discussed by the Canadian people. In the meantime, they are legislating by regulation. This is the point I am trying to bring to the Prime Minister's attention.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has the floor on a point of order. As I understand his point, he is complaining about the failure to answer or the quality of the answer given by the Prime Minister. It is the right of hon. members to pose questions during the question period. It is the right of ministers to whom the questions are directed to answer as they see fit or not answer at all. Any comment on the quality of the answer is fair comment. However, I do not see why a complaint about the quality of an answer or failure to answer, if that is what the comment is about, is in fact a point of order. It is a subject for comment. It is fair comment. However, I do not see it as a point of order. I am aware of no way in which the Prime Minister can be compelled to make any different answer than that which he has given.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN SPEAKER'S GALLERY OF DELEGATION FROM BULGARIA

Mr. Speaker: May I take this opportunity to call attention to the presence in the gallery of a very distinguished delegation visiting Canada at the present time. The delegation from Bulgaria is led by their very distinguished Speaker, Dr. Bonev.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: I can scarcely think, for the interest of the visiting delegation, that the question period could have started off with a more interesting or lively topic.

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INDUSTRY

UNITED AIRCRAFT—REPATRIATION OF WORK AND EXPANSION PLANS OF COMPANY

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. When the minister appeared before a committee of this House last night, he denied that my state-

[Mr. Alexander.]

ment that United Aircraft had decided to cut back some 35 per cent of their production scheduled for next year was accurate. The minister denied that the company ever made such a statement. That has subsequently been denied by the company, a company official having said of the minister, and I quote, "He should know better." Has the minister had further conversation with the company in order to get straightened out? Second, and more important, has he attempted to get that company to reverse its position and live up to its obligation to provide the employment in Longueuil for next year that they should provide?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the hon. member would have wanted to get his facts firsthand rather than relying on newspaper reports.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gillespie: If he had done so, he would have learned from the corporation that no work has been transferred to other plants for some months and no further transfers of work from Longueuil are contemplated. Further, the level of work in Longueuil at the end of 1975 is expected to be 40 per cent greater than the average during 1973.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, considering all that is irrelevant—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Broadbent: I know it is difficult for the Minister of Finance to understand these complicated matters. The expansion plans for next year, which were based on research and development in part funded by this government, were going to be much greater than they are now going to be because of the cutback. The company official said that it was going to be somewhere in the range of 75 per cent next year and this is going to be cut back to 35 per cent. The minister has not denied that. He just tried to talk around it. That is surely the point. Is the minister saying to this House that that company is not cutting back in its expansion plans by some 35 per cent next year? If that is what he is saying, it is in fact a contradiction of what an official of that company has stated publicly.

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I have said that the company has found it possible to continue to expand its operations by repatriating the work which had been temporarily transferred. Further, there is every likelihood, on the basis of present expectations, that activity in the plant in 1975 will be 40 per cent greater than it was in the best previous year ever.

● (1430)

UNITED AIRCRAFT—CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS IN RESPECT OF CONTROL OF PRODUCTION OF ENGINE

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I should like to ask the minister this question: should the company decide to cut back to a negligible point, even if it were 40 per cent above the one per cent it is now producing, what protection, in terms of contractual arrangements, does the government enjoy with respect to control over the rights to produce that engine, an engine which was developed in