

Canada-U.S. Automobile Agreement

attempts have been made to restrict the influence of minor parties in the house, that the two old-line parties are trying to unite their efforts so as to belittle or suppress the efficient work of minor parties in the house.

Mr. Speaker, like the spokesman of the New Democratic party I too want to warn that, if it is in order to frighten us—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must remind the hon. member that there is now an amendment before the house and that he must confine his remarks to the substance of that amendment.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I am dealing with the amendment, but just as others were allowed to say a few words on the work—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I must remind the hon. member that the remarks he is now referring to were made before the amendment was moved.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, reverting to the amendment, I shall deal with it directly—

An hon. Member: We could well do without it.

Mr. Gauthier: I realize that it is difficult for the members of our party to say a few words in the house, but when it comes to members of the other parties, they have unlimited freedom. When our turn comes, we know what the ruling will be.

The amendment moved by the leader of the New Democratic party reads as follows:

That all the words after the word "that" be deleted, and that the following words be substituted therefor:

"this House regrets that when the Government entered into the Canada-United States Automotive Agreement it failed to take any steps to safeguard the interests of the Canadian consumers, the automobile workers and the small parts manufacturers".

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that the movers of that amendment are perfectly right because the procedure followed by the government when introducing legislation is exemplified once again; this approach leads us to believe that something will be done to help and protect the consumer, while in fact this legislation is intended to benefit large financial interests to protect the rich. This is a further example of the approach of this government in introducing all its legislation.

I am still trying to find a single piece of legislation introduced by the government in order to assist the Canadian consumer, and the measure in question is a further proof of my contention. The government offered \$50

million to three large automobile manufacturers. These \$50 million have been offered in order ostensibly to stimulate the labour force in Canada, while we know quite well—I am convinced of it as are all the ministers and the hon. members opposite I am sure—that those \$50 million granted to those three large manufacturers will be used to modernize their plants and to develop further their technology, so as to lay off even greater numbers of automobile workers. We are convinced of that and so is the government, although it will not admit it in public, but inwardly it knows it quite well.

As long as the government grants subsidies to capitalists, to large manufacturers, they will take advantage of it to further modernize their plants and create more and more unemployment. This is the procedure used in most of our legislation—and I could give 10 or 12 examples like this one—which are introduced with nice window dressing such as the amendment to the winter works program. We were presented with something which was claimed to be wonderful; a 15-day extension, and it was claimed that this would help the person who was building his own home. It would help the unemployed for about 15 more days, but after that decision was emblazoned in three-inch headlines, in all the newspapers of the country, it was soon realized that this 15-day extension allowed by the government to complete winter works was only a sham. I maintain that it is mere window dressing, because in the four counties of my own area this legislation could not be applied, and one realizes when one reads the details of this release, that the department had weighed every word in order to prevent this fine measure which it announced from the roof tops from being applied.

The same may be said about the measure which gives a \$500 bonus for the building of houses. This bill granting the \$500 bonus was passed, but an 11 per cent tax increase was immediately and underhandedly applied and so on. This government legislation giving \$50 million to manufacturers is but a repetition of the never-ceasing window dressing legislation of this government which fails to realize that the people know quite well that it is nothing but a sham. The people are fed up with all that boasting and these hypocritical measures—let us say it—they have had enough of all these hypocritical measures which only aggravate the worker's predicament.