

*Oral Questions***INDUSTRY**

JOBS AVAILABLE IN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce dealing with the ailing auto industry. Given that the Ford Motor Company are going to mothball their casting plant, with a loss of 900 jobs, and that they are going to cut, at Oakville, another 1,500 jobs—cut one shift completely out of the process—can the minister tell the House what conditions there were attached to the \$68 million incentive that Ford received which guaranteed that Ford would maintain the job levels that were in Ontario and Canada at the time the moneys were advanced?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, the contract between the federal government and the Ford Motor Company presently has a clause in it that this information will not be released without the consent of the company. I have asked the company to give its consent so that I can provide the information to the House. This is a matter of deep concern to me and my colleagues. I will be meeting with representatives of the UAW tomorrow to discuss this matter, and I will have further information for my hon. friend as soon as possible.

Mr. Deans: Might I ask the minister what action he proposes to take to provide some kind of future for the 20,000 auto workers currently laid off, and the many others whose jobs are in jeopardy as a result of mismanagement both by Chrysler and Ford?

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, I have begun a series of talks with the presidents of the automobile manufacturing companies with a view to getting new commitments from them for additional activity in Canada, particularly in the area of job creation, research and development and production. Also, I met with the UAW and with the independent parts manufacturers. I intend to go on and have similar meetings with the presidents of the parent companies, with a view to beginning formal consultations under the provisions of the auto pact with the American government, with the objective of having a better operation of the pact in the interests of Canadian workers.

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SMALL BUSINESS

MEASURES RESPECTING FBDB LOANS

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Madam Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of State for Small Businesses. The minister is no doubt aware that at the present time Federal Business Development Bank loans continue to be locked in for periods of five years. Such an arrangement is particularly unsatisfactory in light of the fact that the current interest rate on FBDB loans is 19 per cent.

My question to the minister is this: have any measures been recently introduced which will allow for an individual aspiring to obtain a new Federal Business Development Bank loan, or having to renegotiate an old one, to enter into an arrangement whereby the interest on the loan could be renegotiated on a more frequent basis? I trust the minister is acutely aware that the existing regulations governing the repayment of such loans have been the cause of considerable anguish for a large number of Canadians. It is grossly unfair that an individual—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member please come to his question.

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State, Small Businesses): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I should like to remind him of what was indicated in the Speech from the Throne yesterday with regard to the Small Businesses Loans Act, that is we shall raise the maximum amount of the loans from \$75,000 to \$100,000. With regard to new measures or policies concerning the Federal Business Development Bank, my colleague, the President of the Privy Council will be tabling a bill in the next few days providing for the refinancing of the bank's equity funds. We shall also look into the proposal made by the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Darling: Has the minister taken, or does he propose to take, any steps with regard to the bill introduced by the previous government to provide the Federal Business Development Bank with \$500 million capital? The bill failed to receive third reading in the previous Parliament.

● (1450)

I am wondering if the minister has been advised about the numerous applicants who are going to be denied any additional money or applications. Even at these staggering rates there are a great many who will still want to negotiate Federal Business Development Bank loans.

[Translation]

Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix): Madam Speaker, as I indicated in my previous answer, in a few days the President of the Privy Council will table a bill partially based on the previous bill.

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IMMIGRATION

MEASURES TO ASSIST CUBAN IMMIGRANTS

Mr. André Maltais (Manicouagan): Madam Speaker, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Speaker of this House. I think that all French Canadian men and women are quite pleased with your nomination.

My question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Considering the drama in which some families