Oral Ouestions

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

QUOTAS ON JAPANESE MANUFACTURED VEHICLES

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister as the senior Minister responsible for international trade. The Automotive Parts Manufacturers' Association says that if Japanese auto quotas are not continued beyond March 31, imports, mostly Japanese imports, could take up to 40 per cent of our market and 20,000 Canadian jobs could be lost. Will there be an agreement in place on March 31 either to continue the quotas on imports of Japanese cars or to have in place new commitments by the Japanese to create jobs, to produce and to invest in this country on a basis equivalent to that required and carried out by the North American producers?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Hon. Member, as he undoubtedly knows, discussions have been taking place on a very current basis between Canadian industry representatives, representatives of the Government of Canada, and representatives of the Japanese firms and the Japanese Government. An announcement will be made in due course.

PROTECTION OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Will the Government pledge that if there is no agreement in place by March 31, it will implement standby measures to prevent a sudden flooding of the Canadian market with Japanese cars until there is an agreement either to continue quotas or to have the Japanese producers invest or create jobs here, in order to give this country a fair share of the North American investment? This would help the Canadian industry and would also help add to the thousands of jobs that already exist in the industry.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member, I will take his representation as just that, an official representation from the Official Opposition.

REQUEST THAT QUOTAS BE RETAINED

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister. The Government seems to be willing at least to consider abandoning the quotas, and that would be an absurd policy unless it is replaced with something that would guarantee jobs. Considering that Nissan, the most internationally oriented of Japanese car producers, has already said that it has no intention of investing in Canada, and that Honda and Toyota have made a paltry investment in terms of their sales here of \$100 million so far, will the Minister recognize the importance of this industry not only to communities like Windsor, St. Catharines, Oshawa and others, but to Canadian exports as a whole, and assure us that the Government will not abandon those quotas?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the Hon. Member for Oshawa, I will again take his representation as just that, a representation from the NDP. I would only add that the \$100 million figure to which he refers as being the total investment of the Japanese concerns compares to the approximately \$2.5 billion that they have either put in place or have committed with respect to the United States.

JAPANESE INVESTMENT IN CANADA

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is absolutely right. The Japanese have made serious commitments to the American economy in the last few years and have not done so in Canada. In that context, since this industry is not only crucial to jobs but was also responsible for some \$25 billion in exports last year, would the Minister assure the House that he will not abandon the quotas until he gets, at the very least, a commitment from the Japanese to invest in Canada in proportion to their sales in Canada?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, when the Hon. Member for Oshawa refers to abandoning quotas, I surely do not need to remind him that the quotas were not put in place directly by the Canadian Government. It was an arrangement whereby the Japanese agreed to put in place voluntary export restraint provisions. That is what we are now discussing with the Japanese. We are discussing their future intentions.

HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S.S.R.—REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF JEWISH POPULATION

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Secretary of State will know of the tragic plight facing many Jews living in Russia. Does he intend to have this important topic discussed with the Soviet officials when he visits Russia next week?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, naturally I do intend to raise that question with Soviet officials and have had the benefit of extensive conversations and briefings in Canada with members of the Canadian Jewish community.

SOCIAL SECURITY

CHILD TAX CREDIT—TREATMENT IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, just so there is no confusion on the part of members of the Government, we are not wearing name tags, we are wearing badges of