

Oral Questions

Mr. Stewart: Through you, Mr. Speaker—the agreement with the Province of Ontario. You are a Minister from that province.

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Stewart: Sixty-nine per cent of all American tourists and 53 per cent of all overseas tourists come through the Province of Ontario. That agreement has been sitting on the Minister's desk for four years. I asked his colleague, the Minister of Tourism, who, we know, obviously has no clout in Cabinet, why the agreement could not be signed. Ontario is the most important province for tourism in this country, and I say again that the Minister is sitting on his fanny, talking about cars and watching thousands of jobs disappear.

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy answering the questions of Members who are so negative. They give you a great opportunity to respond. We have not been talking about cars, Mr. Speaker; we have been actively involved in obtaining over \$1 billion invested in the automotive industry in the Province of Ontario.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lumley: I am sure that the Premier of the Province of Ontario will look very seriously at the comments of the Hon. Member which demean the importance of the automotive industry in Ontario.

Also, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Canadian history the tourist industry has been added as a major sector for industrial assistance under the new program called IRDP which was approved unanimously in this House almost a year ago this month.

Mr. Bussières: He was not here. He was sleeping.

Mr. Lumley: A substantial number of applications have already been approved. If the Hon. Member would just look at matters a little more positively I think he might see what is going on, instead of closing his mind to what is actually happening.

REQUEST THAT AGREEMENT BE SIGNED

Mr. Ron Stewart (Simcoe South): Mr. Speaker, the new Honda automotive plant is in my riding, of which I am justifiably proud.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stewart: But I hate to see a Minister hiding under IRDP which in my vocabulary answers to CRAP. He talks about billions of dollars—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The first indication was that the Hon. Member did not want a supplementary. If it is a short supplementary, can he put it?

Mr. Stewart: I did. There is a \$3 billion deficit in tourism. Will the Minister sign that subagreement with the Province of Ontario tomorrow?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the Hon. Member's preamble, the first he heard of the Honda announcement was when he saw it in the paper, unlike a lot of House colleagues. I will even give credit to his side of the House. A lot of his colleagues, when they heard about the possibility of having a Honda plant come to Canada, wrote and asked if we could put it in their constituencies. That Hon. Member did not say one cotton-pickin' word, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lumley: Then, to top it off, he tried to stand up in the House a week later under S.O. 21 and did not even acknowledge the contribution of the Government of Canada in getting the Honda plant there.

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Lumley: Also, without the IRDP program, the new \$764 million American Motors automotive plant would not have been possible in Canada. It was that program that enabled the Government of Canada to offer financial assistance to obtain that plant.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lumley: Finally, Mr. Speaker, we will look very seriously at the possibility of a subagreement with the Province of Ontario on tourism.

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ENERGY

COST OF ELECTRICITY IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. On May 25 I asked the Minister whether the Government would be open to the idea of an energy subsidy for Prince Edward Island given that the province's electrical costs are at least twice those of the rest of Canada. His reply was entirely negative on the grounds that Prince Edward Island had missed its opportunity to lower electrical costs by rejecting energy from the Lepreau nuclear plant in New Brunswick. Is the Minister aware of data released by the Minister of Energy in Prince Edward Island, Fred Driscoll, a few days ago demonstrating that energy from Lepreau would have been much more expensive for P.E.I. than other options? If not, will the Minister inform himself about Mr. Driscoll's data and take a fresh look at the issue in light of that data?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I previously referred to Mr. Carl Beigie, and I would not want to be unfair to him, but I should also add that I understand Mr. Beigie has been asked to advise the Conservative Party on