

Oral Questions

manufacturing of vehicles which in fact might even sell on the North American continent?

Is there any indication from the Prime Minister on what he proposes might be done with the auto industry, given that Chrysler is not the only one that is ailing and that 25,000 people and their families in Ontario are not earning a living—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I have not had any such meetings but, of course, the matter has been discussed many times in the cabinet. The minister responsible for trade has met not only with the people in charge of the auto industry but also with his counterparts in the American government, and they have agreed to discuss the auto pact with us.

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SPORTS**DISTRIBUTION OF LOTO CANADA FUNDS TO ARTS AND SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS**

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, I have a question for either the minister responsible for sports or the Secretary of State.

Since the provinces have given the federal government a \$6.4 million cheque as its share of Loto Canada, and since the cheque remains uncashed—at an interest loss of about \$3,000 a day—would either minister advise the House whether the government intends to cash the cheque and distribute the funds to arts and sports in the manner agreed upon by the previous government?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of Labour): Madam Speaker, I thank the lady member for this important question.

Mr. Epp: The “member”.

An hon. Member: “Hon. member”.

Mr. Nielsen: Chauvinist.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Madam Speaker: I think the minister could call her “the hon. member”.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: Madam Speaker, I am quick to agree with your edict, but if we cannot call them ladies, I suppose we cannot call them gentlemen either.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Regan: In answer to the question, may I say that having received from the provinces a cheque for just over \$6 million, which was a certified cheque, and not wishing to cash it until

the legal position of the tentative agreement that the former government had attempted to make but had not, perhaps, completed with the provinces, was clear, we returned the certified cheque—because no interest runs with a certified cheque—to the provinces and received in return an uncertified cheque. This means that \$3,000 a day is accruing to the interests of the ten provinces of this country. That is another piece of generosity by the benevolent federal government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

FUNDING OF VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

Miss Pat Carney (Vancouver Centre): Madam Speaker, since the minister did not answer the question, and since the Liberals have demonstrated that they prefer deficit financing to certified cheques, I will direct my supplementary question to the Secretary of State.

Since some of these funds have been earmarked as the federal government's contribution to convert the old court house into Vancouver's art gallery, and since \$5 million has been raised by private individuals in Vancouver—which depends on the federal funding—does the minister recommend that the Vancouver art gallery return these funds to the citizens of Vancouver because of an unwillingness on the part of the new government to allocate these funds to the appropriate ministries for their disbursement?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for her question. I would like to point out to the hon. member that the capital project to which she is referring is, indeed, a campaign promise which was made during the course of the campaign by the previous government without allocating any specific funds to that project.

As soon as the issue concerning the distribution of Loto Canada funds is resolved, this government will be in a position to reassess the capital project requests which have come in from across the country, and we will at that time give all the consideration required to the project the hon. member has mentioned.

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THE CONSTITUTION**RENEWED FEDERALISM—JURISDICTION OVER LOTTERIES**

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Prime Minister. I wonder if the Prime Minister could tell us if it is part of the renewed federalism of which he has spoken to reassert the federal claim over the field of lotteries.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, that matter is under consideration and discussion.