

Mr. MacGuigan: We have taken the policy that we will not confirm statements which the opposition or others are publishing, whether it be word by word or line by line. There is the diplomatic tradition that such things not be revealed.

Mr. Clark: You just broke that tradition.

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INDUSTRY

MASSEY-FERGUSON—GUARANTEES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It is with regard to the announcement of the deal between the government and Massey-Ferguson. It has now become apparent that British, French, German and Italian banks sought and received assurances from Massey-Ferguson that Massey-Ferguson would continue to invest heavily in their respective countries. Could the minister explain the amount of the underwritten shares which each of the governments of these countries undertook in order to assist those countries and Massey-Ferguson in maintaining its operations in each of those countries?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, in so far as I am aware, the government of Britain through its export guarantee board undertook to guarantee some \$90 million in preferred shares which the British banks are taking in lieu of the debt which is owed to them by Massey-Ferguson. I shall have to check with respect to the other participants. With respect to the federal government and the government of Ontario, our decision was linked with the benefits to Canada of Massey-Ferguson continuing its operations and becoming a stronger and more viable entity in terms of production and jobs for Canadians.

● (1425)

GUARANTEES RESPECTING CANADIAN EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. In return for the British guarantee Massey apparently assured them that there would be no redundancies in the Coventry plant, in the Manchester plant, or in the Perkins diesel plant in Peterborough. Could the minister point to the agreement and show this House the clause that guarantees there will be no lay-offs or dislocation of employment in Canada as a result of the commitment we have made?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Madam Speaker, we have obtained a commitment with Massey with regard to the upgrading of their operations and employment in this country, including the maintenance of employment at existing operations. The exact wording will be available to the House and the public as the details of the agreements are worked out and reduced to formal written form. There is certainly nothing in our agreement with Massey or with the province of Ontario that is intended to lead to any

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reduction in employment. Our objective and our commitment are to do just the opposite.

Mr. Deans: Madam Speaker, am I to understand that the government has committed itself to a \$200 million loan guarantee and that there is not yet a piece of paper on which the commitments of Massey are put down? We do not know whether they will maintain employment and we do not know how much they are going to invest in this country. They have committed themselves to investment in other parts of the world but this government has absolutely nothing other than a lot of hot air.

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, it is obvious from the hon. member's question that, if there is hot air, it is coming from him and not from this side of the House.

An hon. Member: Call another press conference.

Mr. Gray: It shows how interested his party really is in maintaining jobs, and increasing jobs for Canadians. If we had not moved, there would not be, over the next couple of weeks, either the existing jobs in Massey or the increase in jobs that our agreement is going to bring about. Hon. members opposite do not care about that. Hot air, that is their concentration of effort.

An hon. Member: Those are your friends—the NDP.

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, first of all we are not providing loan guarantees but guarantees of the capital risk of a new equity investment. What we have agreed to, and what the government of Ontario has agreed to, is based on definite commitments with respect to production and employment in Canada. These are recorded in written form and they will be recorded in contractual form. This will be made available to the House and to the public as soon as this aspect of this activity is completed. I might say that I should like to see this done as soon as possible so that my hon. friend's concerns can be shown to be groundless.

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TRADE

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S PARTICIPATION IN EXPORTATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA COAL TO JAPAN

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and it is in response to the successful conclusion of a major export deal for northeast British Columbia coal to Japanese markets. While only sketchy details are available at this point, I should like to ask the minister what the extent of the federal involvement is for the procurement and cost of the infrastructure that is required to facilitate the shipment of that coal?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I am not in a position to be very specific on this subject this afternoon but information will be available in the