

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion proposed by the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce under Standing Order 43 requires unanimous consent.

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**An hon. Member:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent.

**An hon. Member:** Who said no?

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, so there will be no misunderstanding on this matter and in view of the difficulties we had last time, let it be recorded that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was the one who said no.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, this is completely false. I did not make any comment. The member is—

**An hon. Member:** Will you support it?

**Mr. Bell:** What other flunkey did it for you?

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

### THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

#### GOVERNMENT WILLINGNESS TO RESUME DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON AUTO PACT BUT NOT ON ENERGY

**Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Minister of National Revenue is reported to have said yesterday that the Canadian government is ready to resume discussions with the United States at any time on the auto pact agreement and that the United States authorities have been so informed. Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether this is a statement of government policy and whether in fact such a message has been communicated to the United States authorities?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is a statement of government policy. In his speech the minister indicated that the discussions had been going on when President Nixon's statement was made in the middle of August and that we have always taken the position that we are prepared to keep on with the discussions. What we have said is that discussions on the auto pact were not linked in our minds to the question of the surcharge. They had begun before and we have felt they can continue at any time.

**Mr. Stanfield:** In view of the Prime Minister's answer I wonder whether he could clarify to the House how he reconciles our willingness to continue discussions with the United States on this matter with the message that the government sent to the United States that it was unprepared at this time to resume talks with that government

on energy policies because our ministers and officials were too busy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I have some reservations about the form of the question and the way in which it was asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I really do not think it is in order for a member to ask the government how one statement is reconciled with another. That is obviously debate. Perhaps the question might be asked in another form.

• (11:40 a.m.)

**Mr. Stanfield:** Mr. Speaker, in the light of the apparent conflict, perhaps the Prime Minister would indicate briefly what the position of the government is.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The position of the government is that we cannot do all things at all times. In this case the discussion of the auto pact had begun, it was in train, and we have the officials and the policy which permit us to continue discussions. In the case of energy discussions, we are not at this time prepared to continue them because we do not have the wherewithal, the personnel and the time to arrive at a decision. We want further discussions on that.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Is the Prime Minister insisting, as the Minister of National Revenue has insisted, that the discussions relating to the auto pact are not connected in any way with the surtax? Does this not mean, logically, that the government's refusal to proceed with the discussion of energy matters is related to the surtax?

**Mr. Trudeau:** No, Mr. Speaker.

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—REQUEST FOR POLICY STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS AND CANADIAN VALUE ADDED CONTENT

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. Given the persistent and ambivalent confusion of the government's position on the automotive pact, would the minister consider making a statement early next week on the government's policy respecting the automotive industry at this time and, in particular, dealing with two points? First, would he indicate the government's intention with regard to the safeguards which already exist within the automotive agreement? Second, would he indicate to the House whether or not the government intends to make clear to the Americans that we will not be content with automotive production in this country until the terms of the automotive agreement provide for a minimum 100 per cent level of Canadian value added content for North American automobiles sold in this country?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I think the position of the government on the automotive agreement is very clear. We have said that we would enter into discussions with the United States on this pact at any time. As a matter of fact, the pact itself says that either party must, so there is nothing ominous in the position we take. With respect to the safeguards, the Prime Minister and I and others have repeated that these are debatable subjects, that the impor-