

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

The *Globe and Mail* article mentions misinformation given by immigration officials about housing in Toronto. We do not want to make any particular reference to that tonight, other than to say that this is information given by immigration officials which is usually obtained from the Department of Labour publication "Living and Working Conditions in Canada", which the department has always found to be extremely reliable.

## INDUSTRY—BEAVERTON, ONT.—CLOSING OF AUTO PARTS PLANT

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria (Ont.)):** My question to the minister of manpower is as follows: Would the minister inform the house if he has received a telegram from Mr. Benson, international representative of the United Automobile Workers of America, in respect of the shut-down of Lake Simcoe Industries at Beaverton, Ontario, and if so what action will be taken to alleviate this serious situation set out in the telegram?

Lake Simcoe Industries is a small auto parts manufacturing firm owned by Attwood Vacuums of Rockford, Illinois. This industry employed directly approximately 225 people, and indirectly many more, such as transport employees, outside tool and die makers, as well as contributing largely to the economic life of this small community whose population is around 1,200 people. Its employees were both male and female, with many ranging from 45 to 60 years of age. These older people find it very hard to relocate in jobs of the nature to which they have been accustomed for the past 13 years while working for Lake Simcoe Industries, which has become a casualty of the free trade agreement in autos and auto parts.

A group of key personnel of this factory formed a company and endeavoured to purchase the now existing plant. In this effort they contributed a considerable amount of their own capital and applied to the Adjustment Assistance Board for a loan. This application was refused. They are now left in a situation where there is no possibility of this plant's carrying on operations after June of this year.

I request the minister to give consideration to this telegram sent by Mr. Benson and to

use all the facilities in his department to assist these people to find suitable alternative employment.

**Mr. J. C. Munro (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Citizenship and Immigration):** The hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Scott) may be happy to hear certain facts which may allay his fears. Our information is that the major layoff is due to commence on June 13. In accordance with arrangements made earlier 132 employees, 92 male and 90 female, were registered for employment on May 9 and 10. Of these 132 have indicated they could travel to new employment. The applications of 126 of these employees, 74 male and 52 female, are currently under consideration for comparable jobs at Lindsay, which is within commuting distance of Beaverton. Other employment is also reported in prospect in the Parry Sound and Peterborough areas.

Following the official announcement of the impending closure of Lake Simcoe Industries on April 29, an officer of the regional office of the National Employment Service at Toronto met with Mr. Benson, the international representative, Canadian region, of the United Automobile Workers to discuss the arrangements that were being made to assist the workers, and the prospect of alternative employment with firms in nearby areas. The possibility of employment with these firms is being actively canvassed on behalf of the Lake Simcoe employees.

I think the information I have just given should be quite encouraging so far as most of these workers, if not all, are concerned. Certainly there is hope of a great number of them finding alternative employment within commuting distance of their present residence. The hon. member would be pleased also to learn that Mr. Benson is meeting with the minister, I believe this month, and it appears likely as a result of the work being done by the government that those workers prejudicially affected will be brought under the transitional assistance benefits program.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.15 p.m.