

Oral Questions

They are fully aware of our concern about having greater Canadian content. The Hon. Member is not on sound ground when he says that this Government is not proceeding in a way to best protect not only automotive jobs but all Canadian jobs.

CANADIAN NEGOTIATING POSITION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Madam Speaker, continuing the Laurel and Hardy routine, I will direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Would he tell the House whether in his view, as a person who should be interested in the preservation of jobs in this key sector, it would strengthen his amateur colleague's negotiating position with the Japanese if we had a bill in the House which indicated that all foreign producers selling cars in the Canadian market had to reinvest their profits to produce Canadian jobs?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, as I indicated to the Leader of the NDP when my colleague, the Minister of State for International Trade, was out of the country, as he has throughout his illustrious career, I am sure the Minister will be very successful in his negotiations with the Japanese.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE ON YOUTH
UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Yesterday I talked with the Minister briefly about having a task force formed on youth issues. He should know now that his colleague, the Secretary of State, has indicated his plans for a parliamentary committee to deal with youth issues. Will the Minister advise when the two of them will be getting together to sort out whether or not we will be having such a committee?

● (1430)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, the position put forward by my colleague, the Secretary of State, is to look at a broad range of issues relating to young people. I presume that because employment is a matter of continuing concern it will be one of the issues referred to that parliamentary committee. I look forward to any deliberations. Considering that the Secretary of State has over-all responsibility in the Government, for youth matters, obviously we will continue our concern with their employment prospects.

REQUEST FOR EARLY ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Albert Cooper (Peace River): Madam Speaker, is the Minister saying that we can expect the formation of this

committee very soon, that he will support it, and that we can begin on it in the next couple of months?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I think the Hon. Member should refer that question to the Secretary of State.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

THREAT OF WEST COAST PORTS STRIKE

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It arises out of the current dispute between the grain handlers and the elevator companies which could lead to a strike or a lock-out as early as this week, thereby curtailing the flow of grain out of the western ports. What action is the Minister taking to ensure that such a work stoppage will not occur? In other words, can he give the producers of Canada assurance that grain will continue to flow through the West Coast ports in an orderly fashion?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Labour, who is presently representing the country at ILO meetings, I am the Acting Minister of Labour. I can inform the Hon. Member that the Department of Labour has kept in constant communication with the two parties to the dispute. We have received the proposal for some form of mediation at this particular time, but no decision has been taken on the issue because that may prolong the strike rather than have it come to a proper settlement, which we would all like to see.

INQUIRY RESPECTING POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF
CONCILIATOR

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Minister. Since the dispute centres around the Government's six and five program and the issue of wage parity with the longshoremen, has the Minister had any consultation with his colleague, the Minister of Labour, and has the Minister of Labour been actively involved? Also, is he considering the appointment of a conciliator to ensure that this matter will be resolved in an orderly fashion, having regard to the fact that there seems to be two government policy issues that are directly related to this issue?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, that question could be more properly handled by the Minister of Labour on his return. According to the briefings we have received, they have been in very close contact with both parties. The question of whether to appoint a commissioner of conciliation was raised. It was