

Canada-U.S. Automotive Agreement

to be in the best interests of the economies, the consumers and the workers of both countries.

The efficiencies resulting from such a division of labour will reduce production costs—particularly in Canada where low volume has prevented full and effective use of mass production techniques. The industry is morally obligated to pass those costs savings on to consumers in lower prices and thus expand sales and production. Lower prices would mean increased employment in both countries for auto workers as well as workers in other industries which supply materials, parts and components used in auto factories...

● (5:00 p.m.)

"In order to achieve the more rational division of labour made possible by the agreement, there will inevitably be some readjustment of production within and between both countries. This could result in hardship and dislocations for some groups of auto workers and their families unless effective steps are taken to tide them over the transition period.

"We call upon both governments to assure that adequate protection will be provided for those who would otherwise be adversely affected by the agreement. It would be wholly improper for the auto corporations and car consumers to enjoy the benefits of the agreement while auto workers and their families bear the burden and sacrifices resulting from it.

I wish the hon. Member for Essex West and the Minister of Industry had made the kind of statement which an American citizen, Mr. Walter Reuther, made. Mr. Reuther called in that statement for a reduction in—

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. Member allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. Orlikow: Certainly.

Mr. Gray: Did he not hear me, in the course of my remarks, making just that kind of statement myself and quoting approvingly from a *Windsor Star* editorial giving the same view?

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, of course I heard the hon. Member say it; but the hon. Member, as is the case with so many Liberals, is adept at saying all things on all sides of the question. The hon. Member says he approves of Mr. Reuther's suggestion that car prices be reduced. The hon. Member spoke after the Minister had already said he does not expect car prices to be reduced. The hon. Member approves of Mr. Reuther's statement that steps be taken under the agreement to make sure that if dislocation takes place, workers will not suffer. The auto workers in Canada and we in this House have given facts and figures to demonstrate that workers are suffering. Fifteen hundred Ford workers are going to be laid off. Is that not suffering?

Mr. Gray: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. Member another question?

[Mr. Orlikow.]

Mr. Orlikow: Certainly.

Mr. Gray: How can workers who have not yet been laid off be suffering at the present moment, even though we may have to take further steps if they are laid off?

Mr. Orlikow: Of course they are not suffering at the present moment; but Ford has announced that in the next couple of months they will be laid off. What we are asking for and what the auto workers have asked for—and I am going to put this on the record, if I have enough time and the hon. Member does not keep interrupting—is that the Government of Canada give the same consideration and the same thought to the workers in the automobile industry, before the difficulties take place, as they gave to the automobile companies. Before this agreement was worked out they made sure, in co-operation with the automobile companies, that all difficulties would be overcome, because otherwise the automobile companies would not have agreed to go into this plan.

All we are asking, and all that Mr. Burt and his executive officers are asking—and I do not know why a Member from Winnipeg has to put on the record for a Member from Essex West what the automobile workers in Windsor, Oakville and Toronto want, because he should know even better than I do—is that consideration be given now, before the lay-offs take place. What the hon. Member for Essex West is saying, as the Minister of Industry said, is, "We will worry about it after the lay-offs take place"—and I say that is too late.

Mr. Gray: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I said nothing of the kind.

Mr. Orlikow: I would be quite willing to have the executive officers and the members of the auto workers unions who are affected read *Hansard* of yesterday and today, and let them judge what the hon. Member for Essex West said from the implications of what he said.

Mr. Gray: What is your solution?

Mr. Orlikow: I am coming to my solution. I have no solution—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Orlikow: I have no solution—

Mr. Moreau: Now the truth is out.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I wish the trained seals would keep quiet for just a minute. Nobody stops the Member for York-