Inquiries of the Ministry

INDUSTRY

CANADA-UNITED STATES AUTO PACT—CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF CARS PURCHASED

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, in respect of discussions with the United States government on the subject of the Canada-U.S. automotive agreement, is the government of Canada insisting that within a period of say five years the automotive industry within Canada be actually producing the number of cars on an annual basis which Canadians actually purchase?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, these negotiations are being carried out by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and I really am not familiar with all of the details.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS OF CANADIANS WORKING IN UNITED STATES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

Last week, in answer to a question I put to him regarding the eligibility to benefits of Canadians working in the United States, the minister answered that he would report to the House before the end of the week. May I ask him if he is in a position today to give this information to the House?

[English]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member asked me last week whether we had completed reciprocal agreements with all the states of the United States on unemployment insurance. I am pleased to state that we have, but the complete answer would be rather detailed and lengthy. I could either send the hon. member a copy or consider his question as a written one and have the answer printed in *Hansard*.

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GRAIN

STABILIZATION BILL—CLAUSE GUARANTEEING PAYMENTS IN PRESENT AND NEXT CROP YEARS

Mr. Cliff Downey (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, in view of the indication given by the Prime Minister on the media yesterday that farmers would be receiving under the proposed stabilization bill, in addition to the \$100 million transitional payment, some \$35 million in the present crop year and \$35 million in the next crop year, will he indicate what clause of Bill C-244 will guarantee that the last \$70 million will be put into the hands of the farmers in the next two years?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have some doubt as to the form of that question.

[Mr. Lewis.]

[Later:]

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Battle River who asked the original question on this subject.

Mr. Downey: Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister or to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Are these gentlemen not concerned that the farmers will interpret their statements for what they really are, using the terminology of the farm community, as being pure b.s.?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

STABILIZATION BILL—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MEETING WITH PRAIRIE MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE— POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Will he report to the House the substance of his discussions with the three prairie Ministers of Agriculture, and would he also indicate any undertakings which were given as between himself and the ministers at their meeting?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps the release by the ministers after the meeting contains about all that it would be possible to say at this stage. I do not propose at the moment to make any further report, although certainly I may do so if after further discussion I decide anything should be said to the House.

Mr. Gleave: Mr. Speaker, I should also like to ask the minister whether he or officials of his department, as he may wish, are prepared to meet with appropriate representatives of the three prairie Ministers of Agriculture to determine whether some modifications to Bill C-244 may be worked out which are mutually acceptable for presentation to this House?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, in the course of discussions from October to March we met many times with not only representatives of the producer organizations but of the provincial governments. We did include within the final form of the bill those changes which seemed to be indicated as a result of those discussions. This is the bill now before the House, and I think now is the time for the House to consider it and deal with its elements on that basis. Of course, I am always ready to talk generally about the whole problem of prairie grain farmers and other such issues with the provincial Ministers of Agriculture.

Mr. Horner: Close the door to change.

REACHING OF DECISION ON STABILIZATION BILL

Mr. John Burton (Reging East): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board has made statements to the effect that either he or the government would allow one more day's debate on Bill C-244 to determine whether the opposition will allow it to come to a vote and thereby allow it to pass, and in